

Iraq, Iran report fresh fighting

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq said Sunday its helicopter gunships had attacked Iranian positions in the northern sector of the Gulf war, while Iran reported artillery duels along the common border. An Iraqi high command communique, issued in Baghdad, said the gunships scored effective hits on positions in the rugged Kurdish mountains before returning safely to base. An Iranian joint staff communique, issued in Tehran and quoted by the official news agency IRNA, said artillery duels continued along various fronts, especially in the central and southern sectors of the 46-month-old war. The Baghdad communique said Iraqi troops had destroyed an Iranian infantry position and an ammunition dump on the southern front during the past 24 hours, while there had been similar action in the central and northern sectors.

Arafat leaves Iraq after talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Baghdad Sunday after talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Hussein reiterated his government's support for the PLO, its unity and legitimate leadership. Mr. Arafat and the president discussed the situation in the Arab region and efforts to realise Arab solidarity, the agency added.

Israelis wound 2 in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli occupation forces shot and wounded two men on a motorcycle who refused to stop at a roadblock south of the Lebanese port city of Sidon on Sunday, according to an announcement by an army spokesman. One man was slightly injured and the other suffered moderate injuries, the spokesman said. He said Israeli soldiers at the roadblock opened fire after the men ignored a request to halt and tried to drive away. The shooting happened about 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

Iraq, France discuss trade

BAGHDAD (R) — French Foreign Trade Minister Edith Cresson and Iraq's first deputy prime minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan, Sunday discussed developing friendly relations between their countries, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. Mr. Cresson, who arrived Saturday night for a two-day visit, had talks earlier with Oil Minister Jassem Ahmad Taqi, which ministry officials said were aimed at boosting trade and industrial ties. The talks were within the framework of meetings of the joint Iraqi-French Committee for Economic, Cultural, Technical and Trade Co-operation, the officials said.

Kahane fears losing U.S. citizenship

TEL AVIV (R) — Extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, the former leader of the New York-based Jewish Defence League who won a seat in the Israeli parliament last week on an anti-Arab ticket, said Sunday he would fight any attempt to deprive him of U.S. citizenship. "The Americans should know that I will be in court the next day if they try to take my citizenship away," Rabbi Kahane told a press conference. American officials have said the possibility of rescinding Rabbi Kahane's citizenship was being considered because he was now an elected official in a foreign government in violation of U.S. law.

Iraq, Philippines sign protocol

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and the Philippines signed a protocol here Sunday to implement a cultural agreement reached earlier between their higher education ministries, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It said the agreement covered co-operation among universities of both countries in scholarships, the exchange of professors, and cultural and educational research.

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Murabitoun, PSP clash Militia battles pose challenge to Beirut plan

BEIRUT (R) — Gunbattles broke out between rival militiamen inside west Beirut for the first time in weeks Sunday, posing a potentially serious challenge to the Lebanese government's latest peace plan.

The sound of rifle and grenade fire rattled through the streets of the Sakiet Al Janzir area for almost two hours before the army moved in to separate fighters of the Sunni Murabitoun and the mostly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Under a Syrian-brokered peace plan implemented early this month, Beirut militiamen were to disarm and disappear from the streets. The militias largely have honoured the accord, and Sunday's violence marked the first major violation in Beirut.

Although the plan gave the army authority to use force if necessary to remove militiamen from the streets, army sources said current orders were for soldiers to stay out of inter-militia fighting. The clashes subsided soon after troops, with jeeps and armoured vehicles, took up positions around the battle zone and began negotiations with representatives of the rival parties.

But civilians stayed at home for fear of further shooting and militiamen with assault rifles and grenade launchers continued to patrol streets in other parts of the city. No casualties were reported in the fighting and the incident had no effect on the old "green line", where army engineers supervised the dismantling of barricades in preparation for a formal reunification of Beirut on Wednesday.

The battles were the first inside the capital since before July 4, when the Lebanese government sent in army units to create a buffer zone between rival forces. Residents said the immediate cause of the fighting was a dispute over posters the Murabitoun put

up in Sakiet Al Janzir after a battle with the PSP earlier this year. Members of the PSP, one of Beirut's most powerful militias, began tearing down the posters Saturday night, they said.

The Murabitoun, a Libyan-backed leftist organisation, has operated mostly underground since last March, when the PSP forcibly closed its offices on grounds that it had been breaking a ceasefire with the mostly Christian east.

The PSP and Murabitoun leaders, Walid Junblatt and Ibrahim Qleilat, were later reconciled at a Libyan-arranged meeting in Damascus, but political sources said some ill-feeling remained.

Despite its slow reaction Sunday, the Lebanese army appeared to have emerged with its reputation reasonably intact. Security sources said there was no question of abandoning the government peace plan, in which the army has a major role.

Under the plan, the "green line" will disappear and all roads between west and east will, re-open to traffic. Militiamen, now organised in sectarian brigades, will be deployed together in the central buffer zone.

Once Beirut is re-united, Prime Minister Rashid Karamei hopes to extend government authority into the Shouf and Aley mountains southeast of Beirut, where the army's eighth brigade has been fighting PSP militiamen since last September.

The army and PSP exchanged heavy artillery fire on the mountain front for three hours Saturday evening, again without serious damage to the government's credibility.



JORDAN ON THE MARCH: The 25-member Jordanian team to the 1984 Olympic Games marches at the Olympic stadium in Los Angeles on Saturday. The Jordanian flag is carried by Murad Barakat, hailed as the best basketball player in Asia (Grand ceremony marks opening of the 1984 Olympics, page 6)

Cabinet approves Balqaz as Alia president. King honours Ghandour

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred upon Ali Ghandour, chairman of the board of directors of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Medal of the First Order. In a message he sent to Mr. Ghandour, the King said: "Since the time I knew you, you were the subject of my absolute confidence and my deep appreciation and love as well as that of the Jordanian people. You were an honest, loyal and dedicated man who translated the wish to a big reality, Alia, which, through your continuous efforts and those of your colleagues has become a high-flying Jordanian banner in the skies of the world."

"Alia has become Jordan's ambassador to the countries of the world and a bridge of knowledge and love that links Jordan to the sister Arab countries and the countries of the world," the King said.

The King added that Alia has never been an airline institution, but a national institution which trains and qualifies Jordanian youths in various fields of aviation and knowledge. "It has also become a cultural and civilised landmark in our country and an international forum under whose umbrella in-



Ali Ghandour

electuals meet to discuss their problems and plan for facing challenges hampering their advancement," the King said in the message.

"The right criteria for the citizenship of a person and his ability to give to the extent of his loyalty, belief, awareness and insistence, and not material resources," the King added.

Mr. Ghandour has contributed to the success of Alia, the King said, adding that "it was not strange for Alia to have faced contesting and hostile authorities which tried to impair and contest

its success, trying to affect its reality and efforts to distort it, as was the case when it was first established."

"Over the long march of Alia, a number of elements tried to distract it from utilising the human potential of Arabs and Jordanians in particular, and attempted to hamper its progress," the King added. "Such elements," the King said, "have not and will not affect our determination."

The King's bestowment of the honour on Mr. Ghandour coincided with a cabinet approval Sunday of a decision to appoint Mahmoud Jamil Balqaz as president of Alia.

Mr. Ghandour occupied the posts of both chairman and managing director of Alia and Sunday's cabinet decision relieves him from the post of president. Mr. Ghandour will continue to hold the post of the airline's chairman. Before being appointed Alia managing director Mr. Balqaz was director general of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Major-General Khaled Mohamamd Ali, assistant chief of staff for administration, has been named to succeed Mr. Balqaz in the Civil Aviation Authority.

Outcome of Israeli elections indicates growing extremism, Mahmoud says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The outcome of the recent Israeli elections reflects the actual psychological state of the Israeli community, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud said. The election results, which showed extremist parties gaining strength, indicate the growing Israeli extremism and hostility to Arabs. Mr. Mahmoud told the Arabic language daily Al Ra'i.

The minister warned of the grave consequences of the Israeli elections, which he said will lead to "harassing our steadfast kinsmen in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and paving the way to the gradual annexation by Israel of the Arab land through Judaizing and establishing new settlements in the occupied territories."

Mr. Mahmoud said the results of the Israeli elections should prompt the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move and should necessitate a detailed programme for confronting the new Israeli policy. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian stand, Mr. Mahmoud said, con-

tributes to formulating a comprehensive Arab stand towards this issue.

The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Mr. Mahmoud added, has prepared a new plan to deal with the new situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The minister paid tribute to the Jordanian government's measures organising the crossing to and from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, describing them as "very good and aimed at supporting the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories."

A specialised technical committee representing various ministries and government departments has been drawn up to follow on the results of such measures, he said.

"He spent about four times as much time and energy on this question than any other," Mr. McGovern said.

He said a Western compromise on this issue might be useful in U.S. efforts to get the Soviets back to the Geneva bargaining table. But he added that Mr. Gromyko reiterated the Kremlin's insistence that NATO also halt its deployment of medium-range rockets before talks can be resumed.

Mr. McGovern said Mr. Gromyko was also pessimistic about improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations. Mr. Gromyko expects Mr. Reagan to win re-election, and "he said he expected no improvement at all in U.S.-Soviet relations if Reagan is re-elected," Mr. McGovern said.

Mr. McGovern came to Moscow for a conference sponsored by the Washington Institute of Policy Studies and the Soviet Union's USA and Canada Institute.

He met with Mr. Gromyko for three hours on Friday in a renovated palace near the Black Sea resort of Yalta, where Mr. Gromyko is vacationing with his wife and two grandchildren.

Mr. McGovern, the former senator from South Dakota and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, said Mr. Gromyko spoke through his interpreter but did not need translations of Mr. McGovern's remarks. He sometimes

Moscow outlines Mideast proposal

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union on Sunday drafted an international conference aimed at solving the Middle East conflict.

The Soviet proposal said conference participants should consider a Soviet blueprint for a settlement that would include the return of lands occupied by Israel since 1967, the creation of an independent Palestinian state and the return of East Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Participants at the conference should include Israel and all Arab states having a common border with Israel, including Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon, the proposal said. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) also should be allowed to participate, it said.

The Soviet Union and the United States should be participants in the conference because they play an important role in Middle East affairs and were co-chairmen of the last conference on the Middle East, the proposal said.

Other nations in adjoining areas should be allowed to join the conference with the consent of the participating nations, according to the proposal.

The proposal came in a statement issued by the official news agency, TASS. Such statements are considered to reflect the thinking of the highest levels of the Soviet leadership.

TASS said the participants of the conference should work towards drafting a treaty calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, the creation of an independent Palestinian state and guarantees for peace and security

of all countries in the region. The Soviet government drafted the proposal because of its concern "over the remaining explosive situation in the Middle East," the statement said.

"The Soviet Union is profoundly convinced that the vital interests of the peoples of that region and likewise the interests of international security as a whole urgently dictate the need for the speediest attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict," TASS said.

The proposal said any Middle East settlement reached by participants at the conference should include a return to the Arabs of all territories occupied by Israel since 1967. These would include the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the proposal said.

Settlements established by Israel in the Arab territories after 1967 should be dismantled and the borders between Israel and its Arab neighbours should be declared inviolable, the Soviet proposal said.

The Soviet offer also said the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, should be given an independent state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under the agreement, the Palestinian homeland should be under the control of the United Nations for a transition period of several months.

The proposal said the eastern portion of Jerusalem should be returned to Arab sovereignty and become "an inalienable part" of the Palestinian state and that freedom of access to worshippers should be ensured in shrines throughout Jerusalem.

Likud takes lead in Israeli coalition race

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took the lead Sunday in the race to form Israel's next government after a key religious faction agreed to negotiate a coalition partnership with him.

The Sephardi Torah guardians, known as Shas, holds four seats in the new parliament. Deputy Premier David Levy of Likud said it "gives the Likud a clear advantage over Labour."

He told Israel army radio Likud had assured itself of "a much larger and more significant number" of coalition seats than Labour.

Shas' support alone is not enough to assure Mr. Shamir of a majority. But Israel Radio said the Shas' decision could have a psychological effect on three other religious parties which have not made up their mind whether give their seven seats to Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc or the opposition Labour Party.

Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz met with Mr. Shamir and said they set up a negotiating committee because "in our faction, the inclination to go with Likud has increased significantly."

Shas is expected to make a string of demands for tougher state adherence to Jewish religious law and increased funding for religious institutions serving Sephardi Jews of Middle Eastern origin.

The Shas decision assured Mr. Shamir of 52 seats in parliament, nine short of a majority. Labour has seen up only 50 seats so far. But Labour is assured of tacit backing from six Communists and Independents elected in last Mon-

day's general election. Labour outpolled Likud 44-41 in the 120-seat Knesset, but that does not automatically oblige President Chaim Herzog to give Labour first chance at forming a government.

By law he must give the nod to the party with the best chance of forming a government. So Labour and Likud are in a race to line up enough support to influence Mr. Herzog's decision.

The party designated by the president gets 21 days to form a government. It can get a 21-day extension if necessary.

Mr. Herzog is expected to make a decision late this week, after official election results are published Tuesday and he confers with the 15 parties which won seats in parliament.

Mr. Shamir's cabinet serving as a caretaker government until a new leadership takes over, held a routine meeting and discussed "defence" matters, a communique said. It did not elaborate.

In Moscow, a Soviet commentator said Sunday that Israel's elections offered little prospect for change in the Middle East.

Vladimir Bolshakov, writing in the official daily Pravda, said the two main rival Israeli political groupings, Likud and Labour, differed only on tactics but agreed on a broad strategy of "expansionism aimed at creating a 'greater Israel'."

Both parties were for strengthening "militaristic, anti-Arab and anti-Soviet" relations with the United States, the commentator said.

Weizman emerges as key figure in Israeli coalition efforts, page 2

Gromyko expects no space talks in September, McGovern says

MOSCOW (AP) — Former U.S. Senator George McGovern met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko for three hours and said Mr. Gromyko does not expect the United States and the Soviet Union to hold space weapons talks in September.

"We discussed the latest offer from the United States on the talks proposed for September in Vienna," Mr. McGovern said. "Gromyko said he doesn't expect the talks to take place. He seemed convinced there would be no talks."

Mr. McGovern, briefing a small group of reporters Saturday night, said Mr. Gromyko's pessimism was based on U.S. desires to use

the proposed Vienna talks to re-open other types of nuclear arms discussions.

He said Mr. Gromyko was firm on the Kremlin's refusal, under present conditions, to talk about other issues in Vienna, or to re-open the Geneva arms talks, which the Soviets broke off last year.

Mr. Gromyko stressed that one of the Soviet Union's primary concerns, which he said is not given enough attention by the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, is the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) refusal to include British and French missiles in U.S.-Soviet disarmament talks.

"He spent about four times as much time and energy on this question than any other," Mr. McGovern said.

He said a Western compromise on this issue might be useful in U.S. efforts to get the Soviets back to the Geneva bargaining table. But he added that Mr. Gromyko reiterated the Kremlin's insistence that NATO also halt its deployment of medium-range rockets before talks can be resumed.

Mr. McGovern said Mr. Gromyko was also pessimistic about improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations. Mr. Gromyko expects Mr. Reagan to win re-election, and "he said he expected no improvement at all in U.S.-Soviet relations if Reagan is re-elected," Mr. McGovern said.

He met with Mr. Gromyko for three hours on Friday in a renovated palace near the Black Sea resort of Yalta, where Mr. Gromyko is vacationing with his wife and two grandchildren.

Mr. McGovern, the former senator from South Dakota and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, said Mr. Gromyko spoke through his interpreter but did not need translations of Mr. McGovern's remarks. He sometimes

spoke English and corrected nuances in the translation at other times, Mr. McGovern said.

Mr. McGovern said Mr. Gromyko looked even better than during their first meeting in 1977 and that the 75-year-old minister told him he swims three times a day in the sea off his beach dacha (vacation home).

He said he was deeply impressed by Mr. Gromyko's energy, memory and obvious command of U.S.-Soviet issues. After about 90 minutes Mr. McGovern said he offered to cut short the meeting but Mr. Gromyko replied: "By my watch, we are half finished."

NATO generals seek higher priority for electronic warfare, page 8

Weizman emerges as key figure for Israeli coalition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman has emerged from last week's inconclusive general election as a key figure, needed by both the ruling Likud and opposition Labour Parties to form a new government.

Mr. Weizman, whose centrist Yahad (together) Party won three parliamentary seats, is being courted by both Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Opposition Leader Shimon Peres.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir won a boost Sunday when the religious party Shas, which won four seats in the election, declared support for a Likud government.

Shas, a party of Sephardi (Middle Eastern) Jews, was the first of six previously uncommitted parties to express a clear preference between Labour and Likud and made Mr. Peres' task of forming a government more difficult, political analysts said.

Newspapers reported Sunday Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir had offered Mr. Weizman a virtually free hand in choosing a cabinet portfolio. Several said there was even talk of appointing him Prime Minister at the head of a national unity government.

Labour won 41 seats in the July 23 parliamentary election, three more than Likud.

To achieve a majority in the 120-seat assembly, either party needs support from at least seven

of the 13 small parties.

Mr. Weizman, 60, who became a passionate advocate of peace with the Arabs, appears to favour an alliance with Labour but is keeping his options open.

Once regarded as their apparent to former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Mr. Weizman was formally expelled from the Likud in 1980 after resigning from the cabinet in bitter disagreement with Mr. Begin's hardline foreign policy.

In a meeting with Mr. Shamir last Friday, Mr. Weizman said he would find it extremely difficult to take part in a government that built Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and disregarded the 1978 Camp David peace accords with Egypt.

"Where were you for the last three years when I was willing to join your government?" aides quipped him as telling Mr. Shamir.

Mr. Weizman, who flew Spitfires for the British Air Force in World War II and masterminded Israel's air battles with Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war, became convinced that peace with the Arabs was possible when negotiating the Camp David accords.

He struck a close friendship with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and is still known for his good contacts and high reputation in Egypt.

Western diplomats said he was one of the few Israelis with a chance of reviving the stalled Middle East peace process.

Sunday's decision by Shas still leaves five parties, including Yahad and the National Religious Party (NRP), uncommitted to either Labour or Likud.

They are expected to decide by the end of this week when President Chaim Herzog begins official consultations about the next government with party leaders. Mr. Herzog has to nominate the leader with the best chance of forming a coalition.

Labour officials said they believed Mr. Weizman would opt for their party.

"We will give him a senior portfolio and the chance to share in a policy close to his own ideas. Likud will offer him the same portfolio but he will be part of a policy which is the opposite of what he believes," one Labour official said.



CLEARING THE WAY: Two bulldozers clear a street along Beirut's Green Line in the city centre, Saturday. Bulldozers cleared streets along the Green Line as hundreds of Lebanese army soldiers began deploying along the demarcation line between east and west Beirut as part of an overall security plan in Beirut (AP wirephoto)

Palestinians protest in Ein Al Hilweh

BEIRUT (AP) — Palestinians in the Ein Al Hilweh Refugee Camp in southern Lebanon burned cars and blocked roads Sunday to protest the death of a resident by Israeli gunfire on Friday.

Reporters in Sidon near Ein Al Hilweh, 35 kilometres south of Beirut, said a strike was called by the camp's residents to protest the death of a 18-year-old Palestinian, Muhammad Ali Mabruk.

They reported quoted Mab-

ruki's family as saying the victim was killed by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint on the southern outskirts of Sidon Friday evening while Mabruk was on his way to the camp from work at a paint job shop.

His family was quoted as saying Israeli soldiers shouted at Mabruk to come to the checkpoint at the Siniq Bridge south of Sidon. But the young Palestinian failed to

answer and ran away for fear of detention. The Israelis then opened fire hitting him in the back, the family was quoted as saying. He was buried on Saturday.

The Israeli military command said an Israeli patrol when the patrol spotted him planing an explosive charge on a roadside south of Sidon. It was not known if the announcement referred to Mabruk.

Sudan foils Libyan plot to kill Numeiri

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudanese authorities have foiled a Libyan-masterminded plot to assassinate President Gaafar Numeiri and blow up the U.S. embassy in Khartoum, the Sudan News Agency reported Saturday.

The alleged plotters also planned to assassinate Vice President Omar Al Tayeb, undermine the Khartoum-based headquarters of Libyan dissidents and "vital installations" in the country, the agency said.

The conspirators were also instructed to survey the guarding system around the Omdurman Radio and the French embassy, the agency said without elaborating whether any specific action was planned against these two targets.

It said the plot was foiled when authorities arrested a squad of four Sudanese dissidents who confessed receiving money, weapons and training on assassination and subversion inside Libya "under the supervision of Libyan intelligence."

The arrested said Iranian and pro-Syrian Palestinian officers also helped train them at Libyan camps.

The agency said the plotters would be tried soon but did not say

when they were arrested. The group's leader, identified as Muhammad Kafi Gibril, a former Sudanese army soldier, has confessed he received \$1,800 two hand bags of plastic explosives, T.N.T. hand grenades and a Soviet made pistol equipped with a silencer from a person only named Bashir at the Libyan liaison office in Bangui, Central Africa, the agency said.

It said Gibril also admitted that Bashir gave him instructions concerning the subversive operations he was to carry out in Sudan.

When Gibril arrived in Khartoum, he hid the weapons and explosives in a suburb called Al Goaz, the agency said.

Other members of the arrested group were identified as Saleem Ahmad Al Haj, a former prison private, Farahma Tiah Al Basha, a former army soldier and Idris Al Basha Doosa, a worker.

The four said they were members of the Tripoli-based Sudanese People's Socialist Front which is led by a dissident called Abdalla Zakaria, the agency said.

It said a group of six plotters were also arrested.

Iranian economic crisis results from essentially political decisions

By Terry Povey

TEHRAN — Iran's vulnerability to economic attrition has been underlined by the renewed attacks on tankers in the Gulf. However, while those exacerbate the Islamic Republic's problems, its foreign exchange crisis is the result of essentially political decisions made some two years ago.

Its over-spending last year — when a record \$22 billion-worth of goods were imported — was part and parcel of a programme by the fundamentalist regime of Ayatollah Khomeini to secure itself in power by recognising the demands of its business and trader communities and of those who urged the need for development. Free spending would also help win the new Iran recognition as stable and forward looking.

Hence the shacks were largely removed from the bazaar merchants, while an ambitious \$170 billion five-year development plan was launched.

These moves led to the import binge — a 40 per cent year-on-year increase from March 1983 to March 1984 — despite the high cost of sustaining the Gulf war, which in foreign exchange alone has been about \$250 million a month.

Unfortunately for the managers of Iran's economy, oil earnings failed to live up to expectations. Exports of an average of 1.7 million b/d earned about \$18 billion rather than the \$23 billion budgeted for. Foreign exchange reserves as a result have dropped to an estimated \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

A crucial factor is a considerable backlog of short-term trade debts, estimated by foreign bankers at \$6 billion, accumulated through greatly ex-

ceeded use of usance bills — letters of credit with built-in payment delays of up to a year. The size of this backlog is seen as the most pressing immediate problem facing Iran.

Talbot, the British motor company which supplies \$162 million worth of car kits to Iran each year, has had to lay off about half its workforce after protracted non-payment.

Those difficulties of course have been greatly worsened by Iraq's attacks since April on tankers heading for Kharg Island, which handles 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports. Oil revenues for May and June will average only \$600 million a month against an average of \$1.5 billion a month last year. Though imports have been sharply cut to \$825 million in the month to April 20 (less than half of the 1983-84 average), a sizeable gap remains once the outstanding bills are taken into account.

Iran has recently been claiming that liftings are continuing normally from Kharg despite the attacks. Few oil traders agree. Two factors are combining sharply to reduce revenues. First, the volume of oil exported is down. Second, and more important, the price Iran is offering to attract customers mean that earnings are not recovering along with liftings.

Traders say the average price ex-Kharg today is \$21 a barrel. This is a far steeper cut than the \$3 discount Iran acknowledges publicly that it is making against its average government selling price of \$27.60. Most long-term contract customers have either suspended liftings or phased them out over longer periods and many are relying on buying off "the cowboys", as one trader put it.

In the middle of 1983, once the

scale of the balance of payments problem was identified, Iran's officials wanted to apply the traditional remedy — cut back or halt non-essential imports for a period and blame the war for the resulting shortage. However, the political compact with bazaar and planners made such actions difficult. Every item in the plan had its foreign exchange allocation, nearly every merchant wanted to import goods.

Rather than face the political difficulty of calling off or of cooling down the expansion, the officials were told to try to bridge the trade gap by some other means.

One such attempt led to a delegation of Iranian bankers, ostensibly in London for talks with U.S. banks over their conflicting claims, to sound out, with the assistance of a leading U.K. clearing bank, international banks over a \$1 billion syndicated loan. When, last autumn, the reaction to this was found to be universally hostile, the scheme was dropped — as was the clearing bank for failing to deliver.

Somewhat later a second (and, as it has proved, temporary) escape route was opened — recourse to the usance bills. One leading Japanese trading house had some \$700 million in bills outstanding with Iran in late May, about half of it in 180-day and 360-day bills.

These debts are the reason the country's Central Bank (ICB) has been severely restricting imports since February. In February the first large batch of the usance bills with 180-day maturity came due for payment. That, and the continued failure of oil revenues to pick up, forced the ICB to step in. Imports of non-essential goods were virtually banned. Less than half of last year's imports were classified as

essential, says Dr. Mohsen Nourbakhsh, the ICB governor. Traders were told to wait until after the Iranian new year (March 21), but in early April, fresh restrictions were applied and most remain in force.

One British trader said: "There just doesn't seem to be any money around and the bureaucratic difficulties of getting at what there is have increased." The frustration of dealing with the increasing layers of bureaucracy is a frequent complaint (along with the well founded suspicion that the new "hoops" added to the payment process are aimed only at delay). "Every time they have trouble with foreign exchange they add a new committee — payment approvals already have 17 different signatures and stamps on them — one wonders how many it will be by the year end."

But ICB officials say: "We don't want to make any fresh

commitments until we have resolved the outstanding ones. This is very much in their interest."

In addition, a senior ICB official refused to comment on possible exchange difficulties (military secrets in Iran), but said: "We are simply taking precautionary measures. No one knows what will happen in the Gulf next."

Though ministers talk about the economy going from strength to strength and claim steadily rising reserves, as the table shows Iran has an accumulated balance of payments deficit of \$7.9 billion over the past five years.

The national accounts for last year (to March 20) are to include 14 months' oil revenues, which will make the books look a little less grim.

Potentially far more serious than the problems of trade debts and low reserves (belt-tightening and a return to barter trading are already featuring in public statements) is the threat to the sta-

bility of the regime if the compact is undermined.

For if, to secure itself financially, it has to damage the powerful vested interests of the merchants and the bureaucrats it will be taking some considerable risk.

It is the Islamic Republic's balancing act between these two groups, plus extensive repressive measures, which has so far helped it to stay in power.

Iran is now promising to win the war "soon", and to carry out a major economic development programme and to allow the middle classes freedom to prosper providing they shun the wrong kind of politics.

For Iran's trade partners, the present problems are nothing novel. They have learned to wait, to accept that "Yes, the payment is on its way" means only "maybe". Large and potentially expansive markets such as Iran's are few and far between. — Financial Times news feature.

IRAN'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
(in \$ billion)					
	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Export earnings	19.8	12.2	12.9	22.1	18.1
Imports	11.5	15.7	15.3	15.8	22.0
Balance of trade	+8.3	-3.5	-2.4	+6.3	-3.9
Net service costs	-2.2	-1.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4
Net capital transfers	-0.1	-0.3	+0.5	-7.7*	-0.5
Balance of payments	+6.0	-5.1	-2.2	-1.8	-4.8

*Almost entirely arising from payments made to resolve US hostage crisis.

Source: First four years Central Bank of Iran. 1983-84 based on public statements by the bank's governor, plus those by other ministers and estimates for minor items.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

18:00 Koran
18:10 Olympic soccer: Qatar vs. France
17:10 Review of the Olympic Games competitions
19:30 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Review of the Olympic Games competitions
22:30 Arabic Series
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Series Continued
24:00 Live transmission of the Olympics

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Four-ups and Bleeps and Blenders
21:10 Living Planet
22:00 News in English
22:15 Love Boat

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Bulletin
12:10 The Footballer
12:30 Over a Cup of Tea
13:00 Concert Hour
14:00 News Summary
14:30 News Summary
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Sports Round-up
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23:00 Sports Round-up
23:30 Sports Round-up
24:00 Sports Round-up

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 Sporting Series
06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
07:30 Sing A Song of London 07:45 200 Walk 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Baker's Hall 08:50 World News 09:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Villers 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:50 Music Now 12:15 Kenneth Matthews: Contemplates 12:30 Contemner 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 An Ice-Cream War 13:30 Omnibus 14:00 Radio Newsday 14:15 Britain 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
15:30 Sporting Series 15:45 Journey into Hope 16:30 At the Piano 17:00 Radio Newsday 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Wimbledon '84 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 The Footballer 19:30 Kenneth Matthews 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Twelve Good Men and True 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Soccer Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Preview Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hussein condoles Ureikat family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday called at the residence of the Ureikat family and extended his condolences to them on the death of the late senator Kamel Ureikat. Accompanying His Majesty was Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem.

Civil aviation board holds discussions

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat Sunday presided over a meeting of the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) board of directors, during which they discussed a number of issues pertaining to the CAA's work and adopted a number of decisions. Attending the meeting was Royal Jordanian Airline (Alia) Chairman of the Board of Directors Ali Ghandour and acting director general of the CAA, Mr. Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz.

Transport ministry contributes to meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation which participated in meeting of the Arab transport and communications ministries held in Tunisia on July 23 has returned to Amman. Ministry of Transport Planning Director Mansour Shammout, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said that the participants had in principle approved the basic regulations of the Arab ministers of transport and communications council which will be referred to the relevant council of the Arab League for endorsing. Under this regulation the Arab ministers of transport and communications will be in charge of drawing up a transport strategy for Arab countries, encouraging joint Arab projects as well as supporting organisations specialising in transport.

Hashish dealer sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mohammad Sa'ed Mustafa to six months in prison and fined him JD 50 for dealing in hashish. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

Municipality to attend conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Municipality of Amman will take part in a training course on the planning of cities and the restoration of old buildings scheduled to be held in West Berlin on September 15. The 15-day course will be sponsored by the Arab Cities Organisation in co-operation with the interior ministry in West Germany.

Sukhneh springs polluted

ZARQA (J.T.) — The water springs supplying the town of Sukhneh, near Zarqa, with drinking water have been found to be polluted and the water authority is trying to find an alternative supply for the inhabitants.

A report in the local press said that inhabitants of Sukhneh discovered the polluted water on July 18 and informed the district governor.

Salim Al Qudah, who in turn requested the health authorities to conduct tests that later proved positive.

The springs have now been closed and kept under strict surveillance. The report said that the town is now being supplied with water from an artesian well owned by Ahmad Abdul Hamid, a local citizen, and from the artesian wells at neighbouring Al Hashmeh.

Foreign workers, poor sanitation increase risk potential of bilharzia diseases

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A report by the Ministry of Health said that between 1977 and June 1984 a total of 14,331 cases of bilharzia were discovered in Jordan. It said that this result was reached after testing urine samples taken from 60,557 persons all Egyptian nationals working in Jordan, and that so far 12,014 of them have been completely cured of the disease.

The report, compiled by Dr. Mohammad Rida Tawfiq, head of the ministry's Malaria and Schistosomiasis (bilharzia) division, said that bilharzia snails, which serve as intermediate hosts to the schistosomes causing the disease "schistosomiasis" were discovered in 18 localities in the Jordan Valley, the King Talal lake, Wadi Shu'eib and Al Maqaren region.

Most of the infected areas have been treed of the disease except for the King Talal, Wadi Shu'eib and Maqaren region but the health ministry teams are continuing the search for bilharzia snails and are carrying on the fight to eliminate the disease completely, he said.

"High risk of disease"

Dr. Tawfiq quoted an abstract about the threat of schistosomiasis to Jordan which was printed by the

Jordan Medical Journal. Dr. Tawfiq was among a panel of doctors and specialists who compiled the report. It said: "The country is free from schistosomiasis and all the cases diagnosed acquired the disease from outside Jordan. The potential for the occurrence of schistosomiasis in Jordan is, however, great. This is mainly due to the presence of hundreds of foreign nationals poor sanitary practices and the recent discovery of snail intermediate host of urinary schistosomiasis at 18 different localities in the country."

"The increased possibility of accidental introduction of snail vectors from neighbouring countries into Jordan and the development of water resources, through the alteration of existing hydrologic patterns in Jordanian surface water, contribute to the increased potential for the occurrence of this disease in the country" the report said.

Water samples

According to Dr. Tawfiq, health teams conducted a comprehensive survey of water areas, springs and swamps in the Jordan Valley and 370 samples of water have been collected for tests to determine whether they are infected.

Weekly tests are conducted on these samples and more water samples are being collected for

much tests because the disease is normally found in wet areas and in relatively warm or hot climates, he said.

Dr. Tawfiq said that foreign agricultural workers residing in Jordan may pose a special threat because there is a high probability that they have acquired the disease in their own countries and now present a pool of infected persons who may act as a source for the dispersion of eggs into Jordanian water.

Vacationers

Vacationers from countries harbouring the disease may likewise pose a potential public health threat, Dr. Tawfiq added. He said that due to the absence of proper sanitary facilities in many vacation areas in Jordan the possibility of water contamination with human waste harbouring viable eggs is high.

Dr. Tawfiq went on to say that once a person is infected, normally through the skin, he or she suffers from skin inflammation which is usually followed by the appearance of pustules or pimples. This is accompanied by poisoning-like symptoms, loss of appetite, coughing, rise in temperature and other complications leading to a general weakness of the body and finally anaemia.

Oral treatment

Victims of this disease, he said, have so far been given oral treatment free of charge and normally 95 per cent of those treated are completely cured. Dr. Tawfiq said that most cases are found amongst Egyptians in the Jordan Valley and suspected cases are being examined on a regular basis. The health and interior ministries are co-operating together for the purpose of combating the disease, according to Dr. Tawfiq. He said that Egyptians coming into the country for work are not given employment in wet regions unless they are first examined and samples of their urine are tested to ensure that they are free of bilharzia.



Dr. Mohammad Tawfiq

Public affairs delegation tours potash company

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the International Centre for Public Affairs in Brussels, currently on an official visit to Jordan, Sunday toured the Potash company site in Ghor Al Safi, south Jordan, and inspected the progress of work and stages of production at the factory.

The potash factory officials briefed the delegation on the importance of the project, the social and economic aspects of the company and the progress of work in the production and marketing divisions. In addition to the future plans for developing the company and raising its efficiency.

The delegation also visited the housing estate near the project which provides housing and other services for the project staff. The 20-member delegation arrived here Saturday at the invitation of the National Planning Council (NPC).

Later the delegation visited the Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab where they listened to a briefing by the Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation Director Fayez Suhaimat about the objectives of the corporation, the incentives, exemptions and other services provided for investors in the city.

Mr. Suhaimat pointed out that there is a continuing increase in the number of Jordanian and foreign companies who rent premises in the estate.

The number of companies and corporations who have so far rented premises for establishing various industries totals 55, Mr. Suhaimat said.

At the end of the visit Mr. Suhaimat replied to the queries of the delegation about the law on encouraging investment, particularly regarding the entry of the foreign finance to Jordan for investment in Jordanian industrial companies.



GRADUATION CEREMONY: Her Highness Princess Basma Sunday patronised the graduation celebration of the second batch of students from the National Community College in Amman. At the end of the celebration, which was attended by the college's board of trustees, the teaching staff and the students' relations, Princess Basma presented graduates with their diplomas, and prizes to those excelling in their studies.

Education council sets university enrollment grades

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Education Council Saturday held its 14th session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat. During the session a decision setting the minimum grades required for enrollment in the Jordanian universities and community colleges, was taken.

According to the decision, students with an overall average mark of 60 per cent can apply for enrollment at the Jordanian universities, while those whose average marks are 55 per cent are eligible to apply for the government and private community colleges.

Arab organisation to assess research in administration

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting for officials in charge of administrative research units and editors of Arab magazines specialised in administration will be held here on Sept. 10 at the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) headquarters.

The meetings aim to study the situation of administrative research in the Arab institutions as well as trying to solve the problems impeding the progress of administrative research in Arab countries.

The meeting also aims to define problems in Arab administration and to issue a directory of Arab experts to administration as well as co-ordinating the policies and efforts of Arab administrative research institutions.

Economic team in Syria for trade exchange talks

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Trade talks began here Sunday between a Jordanian economic delegation and the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce (FSCC), according to the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) President Hamdi Al Tabbaa who is heading the Jordanian economic delegation on its four-day visit to Syria.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, correspondent in Damascus, Mr. Tabbaa said that talks centred on promoting trade exchange between the two countries and removing any obstacles impeding this exchange.

Cabinet announces civil aviation appointments

Hussein stresses citizens' responsibility to society

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein presided over part of the cabinet meeting held at the Prime Ministry Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat. During the meeting His Majesty stressed the importance of employing all human resources in Jordan, exploiting them in the best manner and working towards deepening the individual's sense of responsibility and spirit of citizenship.

King Hussein also stressed the importance of the concept of collective responsibility and its importance in promoting the development of society. During the meeting King Hussein issued several directives

which focused on citizens participation, national awareness, and civil responsibility. His Majesty also stressed the need for citizens to develop the right attitudes in terms of concept and practice particularly in the fields of con-

serving energy and water resources as well as preserving the environment and keeping it clean.

King Hussein had met earlier with Mr. 'Obeidat for some time in the presence of Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem.

Aviation appointments

The cabinet decided during Sunday's session to appoint Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz as Director General of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Khaled Mohammad Ali as Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to take effect from the beginning of August.

Preaching, guidance affairs committee reviews sermons during first meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The advisory committee for preaching and guidance affairs Sunday held its first meeting at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh, chairman of the committee, reviewed the important role the committee plays in the fields of preaching, raising the standard of Friday sermons and planning to qualify preachers and orators in Jordan.

Mr. Dawoudieh pointed out the important role of the committee in holding annual conferences for preachers in Jordan. Scholars and specialised people from Jordan and abroad will be invited to such conferences, Mr. Dawoudieh said. It has been decided at the meeting that a sub-preparatory committee be formed to draw up a preliminary working paper to be discussed at the advisory committee's forthcoming session, said the minister.

The preparatory committee comprises the general Mufti of Jordan, Sheikh Izzuddin Al Khatib, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, Director of Education at the Ministry of Education Izzat Jaradat and Dr. Ahmad Hillayel, director of preaching and guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, the former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs was elected as vice-chairman of the committee.

The advisory committee, which was formed in response to a request by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, consists of the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Director of Jordan Television Kamel Al Sharif, the armed forces Mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Muheilan, Sheikh Izzuddin Al Khatib, Sheikh Mohammad Al Majid, Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Al Kilani, Dr. Izzat



Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh

Jaradat and Dr. Ahmad Hillayel. The formation of the committee reflects the interests of the government in developing and raising the standard of preachers in Jordan and their aim to upgrade the level of Friday sermons with a view to making them tackle the problems of society, Mr. Dawoudieh said earlier.

Prince Hamzeh Hospital plan frozen, health ministry adopts transfer scheme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Implementation of the Prince Hamzeh Medical Centre project which was due to be constructed on an area of 170 dunums, has been frozen in view of the lack of financial allocations, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Designs and final plans for the JD 80 million project were prepared by a local contractor against JD 750,000.

The project plans comprised a 550-bed hospital, a nursing college, X-ray units, laboratories and modern medical equipment, in addition to a mosque.

The Ministry of Health is currently implementing an alternative plan by which it will transfer patients from the Bashir hospital, whose beds are always

occupied, to other hospitals. A study on hospital occupancies found that many hospitals have more than half their beds vacant which prompted the adoption of the transfer arrangement, the report said.

Under the new arrangement, patients will be transferred from Bashir hospital to the University of Jordan hospital. However, these patients referred to the University of Jordan hospital will have to pay high fees, the report said.

Islamic housing seminar debates Jordanian papers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation, which participated in the housing and Islamic cities seminar held in Ankara, Turkey, on July 21, has returned to Amman.

The five-day seminar, arranged by the Organisation of Islamic Cities and Capitals (OICC), discussed 35 research papers on topics dealing with housing problems in Islamic cities and ways of solving them.

Land usage, the restoration of old houses, maintenance of cities, protection of architectural heritage in Islamic cities, as well as the use of modern methods in city planning were also among the topics discussed at the seminar.

The seminar also recommended the setting up of a technical team to be attached to the OICC and to be the co-ordinating body between the OICC and Arab and Islamic organisations.

Other recommendations from the meetings suggested arrangements and preparations for

taking part in the Islamic Housing Year, scheduled to be celebrated in 1987 within the framework of the United Nations Housing Year.

The seminar also stressed the necessity to organise research projects and to publish OICC activities. A recommendation to appoint Islamic experts to conduct joint studies and research between Islamic cities and capitals as well as exchanging scientific and technical expertise in the Islamic world was also discussed.

Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif from the Ministry of Public Works and Asem Ghoshi, who were members of the Jordanian delegation to the seminar, presented two research papers.

The first suggested ways of solving the housing problems of poor societies and the second discussed Israeli housing schemes near Jerusalem and Arab counter projects in the area. Jordan was represented at the seminar by a delegation led by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh.

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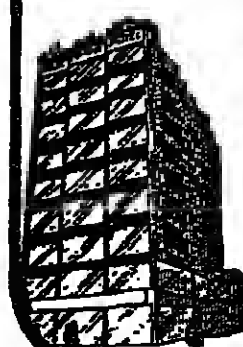
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Outwards in the country

THE RECENT excursions of various cabinet members to the nether regions of the country are noteworthy for several reasons. These trips highlight just how economically important the various governorates are: the agricultural wealth of the Jordan Valley; the vital trade and transit activities at the port of Aqaba; the phosphate, potash and fertilizer industries in the south are all lifelines for the country, but it looked as if it needed a ministerial nudge to remind us of this fact.

Comfortably urbanised in Amman we have become urbane and casual about the rest of the country. The visits of ministers to factories, municipalities, border posts, rural schools and health centres more than contribute to increasing our awareness of "other places".

The problems in these areas are also inextricably linked with those we face in Amman. The lack of services and facilities in rural areas does little to curb urban migration, which in turn affects housing and services in our cities. The surplus of teachers and doctors in Amman is unheard of in the rural areas; in fact, these are desperately in need of such skills — another fact brought home by a touring minister.

The aim of these ministerial visits is to review the problems and projects of the whole country and to assess development on a national scale. The idea is not a new one but it is a good one. Even if all that happens is that the local council cleans the streets in preparation for the minister's visit, this is at least a start. Impromptu and periodic visits to project sites not only add impetus but also give them the attention they deserve; after all they are important to the people who live there.

A spin-off from these visits, rural projects and improved services could be the actual materialisation of the oft-mentioned domestic tourism, to say the least. If there is so much going on "out there", maybe we should go and have a look for ourselves.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Egypt responds positively

IN WHAT was termed as the first Egyptian reaction to the results of Israeli elections, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Egypt would not re-instate its ambassador to Israel unless Israeli forces withdrew from Lebanon.

President Mubarak also linked the re-instatement of the Egyptian ambassador to a change in Israel's position vis-a-vis the Palestine question and to solving the Tabat problem.

This statement by the Egyptian president implies that the extremist line expressed by results of the Israeli elections will not lead but to Egypt adoption of a firmer position in the face of Israeli intransigence and extremism. On the other hand it means that Egypt is ready to participate in adopting a firm and strong Arab stand capable of leading serious Arab action towards restoring usurped Arab rights, regardless of Israeli extremism.

Arab leaders should learn from past experience, which proves that Israel will never quit its intransigence.

An Arab summit should be held soon to rescue the Arab World and enable it to confront Israeli aggression.

Arabs should understand that peace initiatives presented by others do not do them any good. They will never trigger any change in the Israeli policy. Hence Arabs should know that Arab unity and self-dependency are the only means to make Israel change its policy.

Al Düstour: Kahana is the disciple

THE PRIMITIVE attempts by Israeli officials to dissociate themselves from Kahana's position conceal disdain of the Arab mind: whose memories still hold afresh the Israeli massacres against Arabs in their Yassin, to start with and with Sabra and Shatila, more recently.

The picture such Zionist leaders form is harmonious and its small particles are congruent with the general constituents broader Zionist picture. Kahana is no more than one poisonous plant in the successive Likud government's yield, and his anti-Arab ideas could not have crystallised and reached such an extent had he not received full support and nourishment for his ideas by Sharon, Shamir and Begin over the past years.

Despite the long record of crime Kahana had committed before occupying a seat in the Israeli Knesset, the ultimate outcome of his crimes can not be compared with those massacres committed by the Likud leaders, who do not proclaim openly what Kahana utters, but carry out more excessive extremist acts than his.

Kahana's statements are mostly directed to the outside world and to Arabs in order to maintain them paralysed, thus giving the Israelis the opportunity to uproot Arabs from their homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab: Mideast jeopardy continues

THE NEW situation originating in recent developments in the Middle East has resulted in a new political balance of forces that can scarcely contribute to ending the state of diplomatic jeopardy prevailing in the region. In the same time provides the opportunity for major events to take place in our Arab World.

The results of the Israeli elections created a complicated political equilibrium in Israel, as it is difficult in the light of these results for any party to form a strong Israeli government, capable of making historical decisions.

Moreover, they reflect a characteristically extremist Zionist trend tending to adopt increasingly aggressive policies. Hence any hope for a peaceful build-up will be doomed to failure.

Nonetheless, the Arab stand is still completely paralysed and invalid, in view of big Arab differences which have not so far found any solutions, despite the common dangers threatening the Arab World.

Arabs should leave their disputes aside and live up to the level of challenges facing them. They should unite their ranks and mobilise their resources on the path to joint Arab action, which is the only way out of the crisis they are undergoing.

Jordanians and Palestinians alike should a good example of cohesion and solidarity, which are the backbone of Arab unity.

No one but Arabs can stir quiet Mideast waters

By Tareq Masarwah

THE COMING year, 1985, cannot be a year for peace in the Middle East except for those who harbour wishful thinking or for those Arabs who decide to accept Israel's terms for peace. On the other hand, 1985 can become a year of peace if the Arabs decide to deal with their problems in a courageous and objective manner.

There have been efforts to this end by French President Francois Mitterrand, European Nations and the U.N. Secretary General. There might come another tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in this region. Some developments might come up

after the U.S. presidential election later this year. But these events occur outside the sphere of the basic dynamics of our region. These events can never affect the situation because the parties in the issue do not know what they really want, and if they do, they cannot translate their will into practice.

One could detect a sense of frustration in the feelings of the French vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East as they feel they cannot offer any practical assistance due to a lack of balance of power between the conflicting powers; and therefore France can have no role and no effect whatsoever. The French see that Israel dom-

inates the whole of Palestine, which Israel claims as its land, annexes the Golan Heights and establishes colonies in it, occupies southern Lebanon and perpetuates its stay there for as long as it believes necessary for realising its ambitions.

The world at large can see that Israel is obviously not suffering from political, moral or even economic problems. If all the Arabs are unable to wage war against Israel and unable to form a political power that can bring about pressure on it through their international presence and pressure countries to stop financing and arming the Zionist state, then what can France, Europe and

the United Nations do for them? What can indeed any other party do to solve the Arabs' issue? The world at large can see that one party to the Middle East conflict possesses an overwhelming power, guaranteeing domination, hegemony and continued occupation of the other party's territory.

In the light of this situation one cannot say that a Middle East problem really exists... except of course in the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council and in the political speeches of Arab leaders in international forums. On the ground there is no active conflict, and therefore, there can

be no problem and a chance for a third party to exercise the role of mediator.

Should hostilities break out in the Middle East, the world will realise that there is really a problem here and as the conflict widens, the problem grows and becomes more complicated... and of course felt all around the globe. At present, the problem of the Middle East is the Iran-Iraq war, because it has been going on for more than four years, and is now assuming very serious proportions. Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon could also be considered a Middle East problem, especially as the Lebanese resistance are escalating

their activities against the enemy there. But the Palestine problem is in effect a static issue and has no impact on world politics. The world realises that the Israelis have military superiority and the Arabs admit this fact. But then, it is like admitting the existence of a volcano that was active twice; once in 1973 and before in 1967.

The Arabs ought to realise that speeches at the United Nations do not highlight a political issue or create a problem for the World Community. World nations understand problems as these are introduced in the right perspective.



Arab News

Western journalists find difficulty reaching for 'Third World' news

By Richard Bernstein

UNITED NATIONS — On the last day of 1983, there was a military takeover in Nigeria; on April 3, 1984, a coup in Guinea, and three days later, a violent attempted overthrow of the government in Cameroon.

As each of these West African political upheavals took place, one of the first measures taken by the authorities was to close their borders and stop issuing visas to foreigners, including journalists.

Many overseas reporters, as well as editors and administrators, say problems in West Africa are symptomatic of a growing difficulty faced by foreign journalists, particularly Americans. The problem is gaining access to many parts of the "Third World."

Journalists who work for newspapers, magazines and television, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, say they are encountering long and frustrating waits for visas, which in some cases are not granted at all.

But even when journalists do obtain visas in many developing nations and in Communist countries, many say they find themselves faced with tight restrictions on their ability to travel, to witness events and to talk freely with local citizens and officials.

The result has been that, in some parts of the "Third World," restrictions on journalists tend to increase just as events are taking place that most need to be reported.

It is difficult to quantify with any precision the obstacles to journalistic access, but human rights organisations that monitor press freedom have found in general that in many areas restrictions have become tighter.

"I can say to you that the trend in the last 18 months certainly has been for foreign journalists to have more difficulties," Peter Galliner, director of the International Press Institute in London, said in a telephone interview. Mr. Galliner named Africa, the Middle East, and Asia as areas where his organisation has noted this trend.

Another human rights monitoring organisation, Freedom House, studies conditions for the press in every country. It lists only 23 per cent of the countries in the world as having free conditions both for print and broadcast journalists. It lists 89 countries, 57 per cent of the total, as being not free for broadcast journalism and 64 more that are not free for print journalism.

In recent months, for example, many Western reporters have found it difficult to provide continuous, first-hand coverage of several events of world-wide significance, including the war in Chad, the war between Iran and Iraq in the Gulf and the violent confrontation last month between

to report on the situation from the Nigerian side.

Problems of access can also be a problem for journalists working in the West, a fact illustrated last year when American reporters were not allowed to cover the early stages of the invasion of Grenada. But the situation in many places in the "Third World" seems characterised by a sustained and continuing pattern of restrictions on the activities of foreign journalists that pose nearly constant obstacles to independent reporting.

The situation reflects more than a host of practical problems facing reporters assigned to cover "Third World" and Communist bloc countries. To many journalists it seems to indicate a deep distrust and suspicion of the press among "Third World" nations, many of whose leaders have complained that the Western press and broadcasting pay too little attention to them and their problems.

Some of these dissatisfactions have resulted in calls by "Third World" leaders, supported by the Soviet bloc, for a New World Information Order that would be created under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, or UNESCO.

The New World Information Order has not been formally constituted, largely because of objections in the West to implied controls on reporters. Various resolutions that have been passed unanimously by UNESCO's member nations call for a "plurality of sources and channels of information" and the "removal of the internal and external obstacles to a free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and ideas."

Even while subscribing formally to such principles, many "Third World" nations seem to indicate through their actions that they believe their interests are harmed by Western reporting. Their response has often been to adopt methods long in use in such Communist countries as the Soviet Union and China, which is either to deny access to reporters or to closely control and monitor their activities.

"In Africa, it's a constant hassle," B. William Mader, a deputy chief of correspondents at Time Magazine, said, referring to the difficulties experienced by his organisation's correspondents in gaining entry to some countries. "An enormous amount of time is being spent by our correspondents on visa applications."

Mr. Mader continued: "I wonder, to be fair, it is not also a function of American journalism focusing attention more assiduously on these areas and thus trying to get into these countries more often."

"We have changed, and they have changed in the process, partly as a function of their national self-assertion and partially because their conception of the press is vastly different from ours," he said. "Their perception of a good journalist is someone who repeats the government line, whatever it

may be at the moment."

The most difficult problem for a reporter is gaining entry to a country in the first place, and there are several countries where the admission of journalists is so rare that they are in effect prevented from doing any first-hand reporting. Among these are North Korea, Albania and Afghanistan.

In addition, there are many other countries that in recent months have admitted only a very small number of Western journalists and then only on very rare occasions, often restricting entry to those who officials believe have reported favourably on them in the past. These include Iran, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Angola and Ghana, among others.

The Iran-Iraq war has caused several difficulties for reporters trying to cover the conflict. Correspondents of The New York Times, for example, report that since the war has intensified, many of the governments along the Gulf, such as Kuwait and Oman, have made access to journalists much more difficult than before.

Several countries in the Middle East, including Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon, have traditionally been open to Western reporters and remain so. But others, such as Syria and Libya, are very restrictive. Syria ceased issuing multiple entry visas to journalists last fall, and since then, many Western journalists report visa applications go unanswered for weeks or months.

Restrictions have been particularly severe in situations of open conflict in such places as Afghanistan and the Gulf. Only one Western reporter, Patricia Sethi of Newsweek, has been allowed into Afghanistan by the government to witness military operations. All other reporters have had to cross illegally over the border from Pakistan and to report from the side of the anti-government insurgents.

In the three years of the Iran-Iraq war there has been virtually no unrestricted access for Western reporters to the areas of conflict. Generally, it has been very rare for reporters to gain visas to Iran, despite assurances by Iranian officials, such as Said Rajala-Khorassani, the chief delegate to the United Nations, that they are welcome to the country to view the situation for themselves. When reporters have applied for visas, most of them have been turned down, and even those few who have gotten into Iran have found their movements highly restricted.

One problem, according to Jeremy Lamprecht, the general manager of foreign coverage for NBC News, seems to be a division between the Foreign Ministry in Iran, which has favoured giving visas to journalists, and the Ministry of National Guidance, which has the power to issue the visas.

Mr. Lamprecht reported one instance last winter when an NBC News crew received visas to go to Iran but, once there, was denied work permits by the Ministry of National Guidance.

"They just sat there for about a week and then left," Mr. Lam-

precht said. "They were able to walk around, but not with their cameras. They had meetings all the time with government officials about getting work permits but they never came through."

The other party to the Gulf conflict, Iraq, illustrates that even when reporters do get visas, their movements are so tightly controlled by local officials that the reporters are unsure of getting a complete picture of the situation.

Most of Iraq is off-limits to journalists and travel anywhere must be in the company of an official guide. Foreign reporters with experience in the country say requests for interviews with senior officials usually go unanswered. Visits to the war front with Iran have generally been to the area of Basrah, while many areas where fighting has taken place have remained closed.

In southern Africa, the ability of reporters to go to and move around several key countries was impaired last year by an agreement by Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia to exclude any reporters based in South Africa. The agreement, called the Kadoma Declaration after the town in Zimbabwe where it was signed, has been selectively enforced. In Angola, for instance, it has made little difference, some journalists say, because reporters were virtually excluded from that country in any case.

Zambia, according to the New York Times correspondent for southern Africa, Alan Cowell, has applied the ban sporadically. The country, which used to be largely open to foreign reporters, has turned some reporters back at the airport but at other times has allowed them in. One of the latter occasions came during a peace conference on South-West Africa, also known as Namibia, co-hosted by South Africa.

Elsewhere in black Africa, according to Mr. Cowell, restrictions have generally become tighter. In Uganda, press access has become very difficult since Milton Obote came to power, with visas issued only to reporters who have a letter of introduction from the Government, Ethiopia, which has a Marxist Government, has tended to allow reporters into the country only to cover specific events, such as the summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity last year and this year's drought.

One area of the third world that remains relatively open to American journalists is Latin America, according to analysts of the press there. The most notable exception is Cuba, which has given visas only irregularly and limited the movements of foreign journalists once they are in the country.

Most of the other countries of the region remain open to the Western press, though there has been some concern over trends in such places as Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador and others whose governments have sponsored journalists' organisations with which foreign reporters must register before being allowed to work.

— The New York Times

Europe no longer sees Israel as poor little kid

By Dominique Moisi

PARIS — When the excitement of this week's elections and of the post-electoral politicking subsides, Israelis might do well to look abroad and notice that Europe's approach to Israel is changing.

The positive emotions of the 1950s and 60s, when Israel was perceived by Europeans as a courageous and small pioneer state symbolised by the kibbutz, have long disappeared. But the virtual ostracism of the 1970s and the turn of the decade, when Israel was seen mainly as an ambitious imperialist power bent on expansion, is slowly giving way as well.

Europeans now seem to be entering a third phase characterised by a more neutral and less emotional approach to Israel. This has much to do with a perception that the Hebrew state is no longer the exclusive or even the dominant factor for unrest in the region, given the rise of revolutionary Islam as a destabilising force and the war between Iran and Iraq.

To understand this shifting European mood, one must relate strategic and economic considerations with psychological ones affected by an evolving sense of guilt.

Strategically, many European countries have long been frustrated with developments in a region of former influence that they no longer control. But lately this loss of influence has been offset by a marked decrease in Europe's dependence on oil. The Gulf war has failed to provoke serious concern among Europeans, either because of an unwillingness to become further involved or because of excessive optimism as to the future of oil supplies.

The passage of time increased Europe's psychological distance from Israel. While memories of Nazi horrors faded, the Jewish state had been gaining strength. Harsh economic realities made themselves fully felt in Europe after 1973 and even more so after 1977, when Menachem Begin came to power. Realpolitik gradually met less resistance from emotions.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 at first reinforced this process of isolation of Israel, which was self isolation in part. But as

the war progressed a new mood set in. The Israelis were not looking better, but the Palestinians and the Lebanese were now looking different. They were not uniquely victims; they were now deemed to be largely responsible for their unfortunate situation.

This new perception was reinforced by what can be called a crisis of Third World consciousness in Europe, particularly evident in France. The Third World began to be seen in a less idealised way.

European support for the Palestinian cause in the 1970s drew on a context of concern for the Third World, worries about oil and a feeling that the Middle East situation was critical but manageable if only adequate pressure could be exerted on the Israelis. Today Europeans are less worried by their economic dependence on the region and less influenced by guilt feelings; whether toward the Israelis or the Palestinians, it is as if conflicting emotions had canceled each other out.

The Europeans are also less inclined to believe that they can exert significant influence on the political evolution of the region — except for the formulation of a largely declaratory policy, with not much more impact than that of a Greek chorus.

So the present context is dominated by a new realism — a new cynicism, some would say. The mid-'80s are a time of pre-occupation with technology.

This emerging change has yet to be perceived, much less exploited, by Israelis who still look at Europe with a mixture of historical emotions — memories of the Holocaust, political frustration vis-a-vis policy perceived as hostile (typified by the Venice declaration of 1980), a disposition to feel that ultimately Europe may no longer matter and that the only West that counts is the United States.

The emerging European hopes of the '80s may turn out to have been as exaggerated as were the fears of the '70s. But this more "neutral" mood is probably here to stay.

The writer is associate director of the Institut Français des Relations Internationales. He contributed this article to the International Herald Tribune.

Religion shaping up as U.S. campaign issue

By Arthur Spiegelman

NEW YORK — Suddenly U.S. presidential candidates are questioning each other's religious convictions, raising an issue normally held to be taboo in American politics.

President Reagan stood in front of St. Anne's Church in Hoboken, New Jersey, Friday and told parishioners that his Democratic opponents were wrong on such issues as abortion, school prayer and tax credits for parents with children in church schools.

With entertainer Frank Sinatra at his side, Mr. Reagan even invoked Pope John Paul for political support, something few American politicians would dare do.

"We are for life and against abortion," he said. "We are for prayer in the schools, we are for tuition tax credits and in Central America, we are rather more inclined to listen to the testimony of His Holiness the Pope than the claims of the Communist Sandinistas."

Mr. Reagan accused his Democratic opponents, Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, of "wearing compassion as if it were a cloak made of neon."

Religion has rarely been invoked in presidential campaigns. It surfaced in 1928 and 1960 when the Democrats put up Catholics as their presidential candidates and John Kennedy was able to do what Al Smith could not — convince

protestants that he would not take orders from the Pope in Rome.

In 1980, religion again became an issue as Mr. Reagan rallied fundamentalist Protestant support to his side by embracing issues they deemed to be of paramount importance — outlawing abortion and allowing school prayer and tax support for parochial schools.

For New York Governor Mario Cuomo, keynote speaker at last week's Democratic national convention, Mr. Reagan's remarks at St. Anne's seemed out of line.

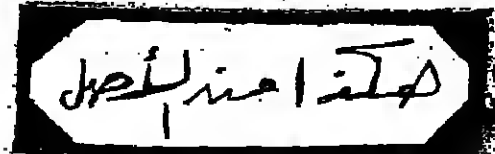
"If he is trying to pander to the Catholic voter, it will explode in his face. Catholics are not fools," Mr. Cuomo told reporters.

But the governor recognised that Mr. Reagan is not the only politician sounding the religious note. His friend Ms. Ferraro did it in her first public appearance as Mr. Mondale's vice-presidential running mate.

She stood in front of a church — the Methodist Church in Mr. Mondale's hometown of Elmore, Minnesota — and declared that Mr. Reagan was not a good Christian because his policies "are so terribly unfair."

Ms. Ferraro, 48, is an Italian-American Roman Catholic.

When it was suggested that Mr. Reagan might have been reacting to Ms. Ferraro, Mr. Cuomo said: "This Geraldine Ferraro has him intimidated. They (the Republicans) don't know how to handle her and they're not going to find out in the next 100 days."



Local Chinese officials seek to thwart agricultural reform

Local officials in China are seeking to thwart government reforms aimed at enabling peasant families to run non-farming businesses. Colina MacDougall reports.

LONDON — China's latest rural reforms have run into opposition from local officials who resent peasants escaping from collective farms or earning riches in non-agricultural ways. This money, they believe, should be channelled into their own organisations (via an often sticky-fingered bureaucracy).

The official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, last month published Peking's main rural policy statement of the year, the Central Committee's No. 1 Document of 1984. First circulated some time ago to selected officials, the document has now been published openly to counteract what the peasants have christened the "so-called No. 2 Documents" drawn up by local officials.

The No. 1 Document widened the scope of the earlier reforms introduced by the Deng Xiaoping leadership, which included the "responsibility system" (the right of an individual household to contract with the state for a fixed quota in return for the use of a plot of land and retention of any surplus) and the right of rural households to specialise in particular lines (such as growing melons or raising ducks).

It sets out a much more profound reform which authorises peasants to run non-farming businesses and allows them to do so by moving to nearby towns if necessary. Most notably, these businesses cover industry and the service trades, as well as processing, forestry or construction.

The reforms are intended in the long run to reduce the farming

portion of the rural population to between only 20 and 30 per cent of the total — from a figure that is probably at least double that. Peking wants the most efficient families to take over the land, provided the others can support themselves elsewhere.

The "No. 2 Documents" were drawn up by local government and Communist Party departments to lay down rules which would frustrate the central government's policy. Opposition, condemned as "leftist", comes from conservative officials who fear losing power, envy the peasants and worry over possible redistribution.

Document No. 1 stipulates that a local authority can designate pilot-project towns where the peasants can set up small businesses. But some local officials have made it almost impossible for a peasant to get a business licence, rent a house in town or change his household registration (essential in China). Where businesses have been successful, some local officials have simply "nationalised" them, said Xinhua.

In Hunan province, officials invented a whole new set of regulations and charges. For instance, where peasant-run coal mining businesses shipped their coal out of the county, they had to get a special pass. Without one they had to pay fines up to half the value of their consignments.

In Zhongli, a small country town in Hubei province where making fireworks is a long tradition, local tax and legal officials accused households now making them as a private business, of tax

evasion and breaking the law. They deliberately extended the retroactive period for paying overdue taxes, imposed fines and confiscated property.

Elsewhere, bureaucrats have taken advantage of their positions. In one district in Hubei, where some peasant families ran restaurants, officials eating in them accumulated bills of more than 15,000 yuan (about \$6,630). Some officials pretended to be holding meetings or carrying out inspections, and slipped away afterwards without paying the bills.

Some refused to acknowledge their debts, and, on one occasion, broke up the restaurant when the local paper reported the case. "They overturned a table with dishes on it, smashed bowls and plates, kicked over a fish bucket and threw knives and chopping blocks out the door."

They even threatened the owner, saying: "You must shut down tomorrow, otherwise we will have your house pulled down."

While such specific cases are rarely described in the Chinese press for fear of antagonising officials, the steady stream of general criticism of "leftism" argues the strength of the opposition to all such reforms at the grass roots.

Mr. Deng was able to implement the earlier strictly rural reforms without excessive difficulty because, in the main, the peasants were on his side and quick results in the shape of more food in the towns soon appeared.

But the wider social engineering, where farmers may be supplanting townfolk and the town-based bureaucracy, may prove more difficult to achieve — Financial Times news feature.

Smoothing the way to social integration

Turning apathy and frustration into hope and positive effort is the objective of an International Labour Organisation (ILO) project now underway to help millions of second generation migrants in West European countries.

While fostering pride in their cultural backgrounds, the project aims to divert these children of migrant workers from the dead-end street of unskilled jobs and social isolation to an alternate route leading to active participation and integration into the society of the country in which they live.

OVER 4.5 million young people living in West European countries today are children of migrant workers. These "second generation" migrants — who frequently have no real ties with their parents' country of origin but whose home life remains closely attached to its traditional values, who are moulded by the way of life of the countries where they live and where often they were born — are exposed to many and varied hardships.

Other than language problems, which they sometimes experience, they are often discriminated against because of the inferior professional and social status of their parents. Faced by bias against both youth and foreigners, they generally leave school with serious handicaps as compared with young nationals.

Only a small number of them

are able to meet the requirements necessary to participate in vocational training and apprenticeship programmes and thus many find themselves pushed towards the same sort of unskilled and dead-end employment of their parents.

High jobless rate

It is not surprising therefore that in a period of widespread unemployment among young people in Western Europe the second generation migrants are the hardest hit. Thus in France, 26.8 per cent of unemployed foreigners in 1980 were less than 25 years old, double the proportion of French youth. In Sweden, 6.9 per cent of the second generation migrants were unemployed as against 3.4 per cent of young nationals.

The situation of the young foreigners is all the more equivocal as most of the countries concerned have not yet defined a clear policy regarding their integration into the workforce or into society as a whole.

These young people, however, are beginning to realise that their differences do not necessarily carry a stigma of inferiority but on the contrary can be positive and enriching factors. While they are increasingly taking initiatives to integrate into the societies of the countries of employment, they nevertheless do not renounce their origins.

ILO action

To assist the second generation migrants in their efforts to participate and integrate, a regional European project is being implemented jointly by the ILO and the United Nations Development Programme. Its objective is not only to help these young people overcome their handicaps by acquiring skills and basic knowledge, but also to increase their motivation and thus help stem the trend to marginalisation which is found among young migrants today.

Already in France, Belgium and Switzerland, some 30 young people — second generation migrants themselves — are being prepared to supervise various motivation, guidelines and pretraining activities to benefit other young people of foreign origin.

The programme has been designed to include courses conducted at the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin, Italy, followed by instruction in national institutions in the three countries where the trainees live.

A guide to conducting training courses open to young migrants is being prepared and will be published at the end of the year. This guide is intended to encourage the extension of the application of the methodological approach used by the pilot venture.

Expansion

"We make no pretension of considering that this experiment can cover the whole group of countries affected by migration," Carlos Castro-Almeida, co-ordinator of the project, readily admits. "But we are working towards a

second experiment — we are thinking of the German-speaking countries, for example, and we are in contact with the European Community to ascertain if this type of approach could be repeated on a larger scale. Without a general model, our hope is to see it gradually enter the current practices of the European countries."

The pilot project facilitates co-ordination between initiatives and activities of various training bodies in different countries. Thus comparisons can be made between what is happening in Belgium and what is happening in France or Switzerland, "even if the training schemes are of different types, taking account of the particular characteristics of each country," he adds.

Finally, for the young people themselves the experiment seems equally significant. "What is happening within the trainee groups is exciting not only on the human plane but on the level of personal experience," Mr. Castro-Almeida says. "These young people tomorrow can be sources of identification and motivation for many other young migrants looking for identity and guidance." — ILO report.

Will the world be able to feed 10.2b by 2100?

Most of the world's new babies born in the coming decades will be citizens of developing nations. The second International Population Conference in August will not only have to deal with population control, but with the links between burgeoning populations and an eroding world environment.

By R.C. Sabatier

LONDON — By the year 2100, there will be 10.2 billion people on the earth, the U.N. reckons. When delegates from more than 100 nations take part in August in the second International Population Conference, they will confront the reality behind the numbers: less arable land, water, fuel, shelter, employment and health care for most of the world's inhabitants.

During the week (6-13 August 1984) of their discussions in Mexico City, 1.4 million people will be added to the world's population. Between now and the year 2100, 95 per cent of new babies will be born to the developing nations, raising their population from 3.3 to 8.8 billion. The industrialised nations total will rise to only 1.4 billion, its disproportionate share of the world's wealth becoming even higher. People born in the "North" will be on average 30 to 40 times richer than those in the "South."

The current 2 per cent world economic growth rate could lead to advances in living standards in countries like West Germany and Hungary, which now have zero population growth.

By contrast, living standards will doubtless decline in countries like Ecuador, Kenya and Pakistan, where population growth exceeds 3 per cent. Even stringent population policies on the Chinese model, where couples are encouraged to have only one child, cannot escape short-term hardships.

But the widening gap between economic and population growth in the "South" is not the sole issue confronting those who will gather in Mexico City. The agenda emphasises the role which environment and resources play in the planet's future.

Environmental concern and planning has come of age in the 10 years of experience and information gathering since the first World Population Conference in Bucharest, Rumania, in 1974.

For instance, most experts agree that without a basic change in the way water is managed, there will not be enough of it in the right places to support next century's global population.

Africa, where 24 nations now need food aid, will have five times more people in 2100 than today. Asia's population will double, and Latin America's will do likewise. This growth will place severe regional constraints on water supplies, particularly in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Even with sophisticated water management and conservation, the introduction of big irrigation schemes would allow only a 50 per cent population increase in these areas. Yet Africa and the Middle

East are the regions which have most consistently rejected population planning.

During the next century, the average African will have less than one-fifth of the water available to him now. The average Asian will have about half.

Food follows water in the hierarchy of human needs. The earth produces more food than ever, while more people starve. Since 1973, food production has fallen in 55 countries, including 34 African states.

Over the last decade, food supply has exceeded population growth, thanks largely to expanded North American cereal production. But distribution is uneven, and for the countries which most need them, cereal imports are becoming prohibitively expensive.

Though more and more people will need to be fed, the degradation of croplands is accelerating.

FAO statistics show that there are presently 1.5 billion hectares of arable land under cultivation.

By the end of this century, 200 million hectares (495 million acres) of this will be lost to agriculture through soil erosion or poor irrigation practices. This is at a time when food production in the "South" would have to increase by more than 60 per cent in order to keep pace with population growth.

The world's forests are vanishing at the rate of 14 hectares per minute. Deforestation destroys watersheds and leads to both flooding and accelerated soil erosion. Its chief cause is the search for new cropland by the poor. By the year 2000, 140 million people in the rural South will be seriously short of fuelwood, and 2.2 billion people will be cutting trees faster than they are growing, according to the U.N.

No one expects the Mexico City conference to have a direct effect on such problems. But many population experts feel that the meeting could have an effect on politicians if it recognised, in the "World Population Plan of Action" which it is expected to revise, the relationships between population, resources, environment and development. Leon Tabah, Director of the U.N. Population Division writes that "it is conceivable that some limits have ultimately to be set on (global) population growth."

Today most governments are more concerned with military security than with the threats to security posed by burgeoning populations and a deteriorating natural resource base. Yet in the end "security" may depend less on weapons than on an environment which can provide enough food, water and energy for the planet's people. — Earthscan feature.



Ethiopian schoolboys: their children will share the earth with over 10 billion others. World population was one billion in 1800, and will rise to 10.2 billion by 2095 (Earthscan photo)

Japanese standardise computer systems

By Koichi Nakagawa
Associated Press

TOKYO — Standardisation, common for industrial products, was once the impossible dream in the personal computer business, particularly in Japan where scores of companies are competing.

But Japanese electronics companies have now found compatibility amidst chaos by successfully launching home computers tailored to a standardised operating system.

The "MSX" home computers have worked out so well that Japan's big-name electronic firms, including Toshiba, Sony and Matsushita, are now talking about taking a major slice of the computer business in Western Europe.

Since coming on the market eight months ago, more than 20,000 "MSX" home computers have been sold. Sales are expected to climb to the 600,000-unit level by next March, according to an electronic industry estimate.

"The MSX market will expand regardless of whether it's domestic or international," said Tokihiko Ikemizu, assistant general manager of the home electronics divisions of Toshiba Corp., the most eager among Japanese firms to introduce its products overseas.

The MSX system was developed originally by Microsoft Corp., the biggest software maker in the United States. It allows computer users to buy software that is interchangeable in machines adhering to the MSX hardware specifications.

Fifteen Japanese computer and electronics companies decided a year ago to support the system, and today 12 leading companies

put out 24 models with the MSX operating system. Kazuko Sasaki, spokeswoman for ASCII, Japan's sales representative for Microsoft, said most of the models are "low end," costing between \$200 and \$500 and popular among young people for computer games.

In pre-MSX days, Japan's appliance and electronics makers produced a dizzying array of home computers that were not compatible, meaning the software from one machine could not be used in another. Unlike American makers like IBM and Apple, which have emphasised software production, the Japanese makers, tended to neglect software, further limiting the functions of their computers.

MSX has proved such a boon that the Japanese are now looking overseas, particularly to Europe where the home computer market is still largely untapped. Most say their first target will be Britain.

Toshiba plans to enter the British market as early as September and hopes to sell 10,000 units a month. Many others are likely to follow suit.

Ikemizu explained that Toshiba chose to go to Britain first mainly because the British market is more potential for growth. He added that the British people are curious about new things.

He said 2.5 million personal computers are expected to be sold in Britain this year, compared with about 1 million in West Germany and 500,000 in France.

A spokesman of Matsushita Electric Industrial, maker of Panasonic products, agreed that Western Europe, in particular Britain, would be their first place for exports.

Sony, a relative newcomer in the computer business, also expressed strong interest in the European market. Its spokesman indicated that the company may start exporting its MSN machines early next year.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, said if Sony's MSX models are successful in Britain, Sony would look into the much more competitive U.S. market.

Industry analysts say standardisation has lowered manufacturing costs and made it easier to develop software. They attribute this year's soaring overfill domestic sales in home computers, which are expected to near 2 million, to the introduction of MSX computers.

The domestic sales of personal computers increased from a little more than 100,000 units in 1980 to more than 1.1 million units last year, according to the Japan Electronic Industry Development Association.

But not everyone is heaping praise and encouragement on the MSX.

MSX standardisation is often described as an attempt by companies lagging behind in the personal computer business to turn their fortunes around by joining forces. In fact, NEC, Japan's No. 1 personal computer maker with more than 45 per cent of the domestic market, has been reluctant to go along with the MSX, although it agreed to the standard.

An NEC spokesman said they are now studying the feasibility of an MSX system, but see no urgency as long as their line of computers sells well.

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Hollywood-style opening for Olympic Games

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Los Angeles Olympic Games began with a giant peal of bells, a burst of fire works and a trumpet fanfare.

Watched by 92,560 people packed into the Memorial Coliseum and an estimated television audience of 2.5 billion — half the world's population — the capital of the film world gave the games a giant Hollywood hall-of-fame welcome.

One thousand huge gold and white balloons were released into the clear blue sky, a James Bond-style rocket man roared across the stadium with a jet propelled backpack and planes wrote 'welcome' in smoke.

It was a spectacular start to a games plagued by the withdrawal of the Soviet Union and 14 other countries. But there were still a record 140 countries and 7,800 athletes taking part.

As the sign of the troubled times, police sharpshooters were concealed in multi-coloured pyramids on the top of the steep oval stadium.

Security men also searched people's bags as they entered the coliseum.

Outside, residents cheerfully charged \$50 to park cars on their front lawns.

The giant audience saw a marching band of 750 play a typical selection of Americana, including "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "This Land is Your Land."

High stepping girls twirled red and white Olympic flags before forming a map of the United States.

With the temperature in the 90s and with no sign of the smog that athletes fear could upset their performances, nearly 10,000 people took part in the extravaganza.

Nine wagon trains were drawn by old-time pioneers onto the grass of the arena — newly-painted green to blot out the sun-scorched brown turf.

The entire ceremony was a series of slickly choreographed Hollywood-style tableaux of American life, ranging from New Orleans gospel singers to jittersburgers.

The five-million-dollar show accounted for one per cent of the entire budget of the first Olympic

games to be financed entirely by private enterprise, from soft drinks to hamburger chains.

In a luscious spectacle reminiscent of the Hollywood musicals of the thirties, 84 grand pianos, played by men in blue-powder suits, were pushed onto the giant stage to play 'Rhapsody in Blue'.

Top-hatted dancers in white tie and tails danced with women in flowing white gowns in true Fred Astaire style.

Two video screens, billed as the biggest in the world, gave another Hollywood touch — close-ups of the dancers and pianists together with old film clips.

Spectators in the stadium put on one of the biggest displays when, on command, each person held up coloured cards which transformed the stands into the flags of 55 countries.

The President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch then handed over the Olympic flag to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, who had led the campaign to bring the games to the city.

Bradley proudly waved the flag as the spectators rose to cheer and clap.

Composer and conductor John Williams led a 100-piece orchestra playing the 'Olympic theme' written specially for the games.

In contrast to the razzle dazzle of earlier pageantry the theme music hit a subdued note.

In the tradition of the games, athletes from the 140 countries paraded around the stadium, many dressed in their national costumes.

The big Chinese delegation won a standing ovation from the crowd. China, taking part in its first summer games since 1952, has sent 225 athletes to Los Angeles to compete in 16 sports.

The Canadian team, to the applause of the spectators, threw

frisbees into the stands. Australia's team marched into the arena wearing bush hats. Bahrain's small contingent wore bright red flowing robes.

When Britain appeared, the orchestra struck up the old music hall tune 'I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts'.

The crowd gave a special cheer to 39-year-old paraplegic archer Neroli Fairhall who led the New Zealand team into the arena in her wheelchair.

Fairhall, the Commonwealth archery champion, was picked for the 1980 games in Moscow. But she did not take part because New Zealand joined the U.S.-led boycott.

President Reagan described the arena spectacle as "absolutely magnificent, just out of this world."

"I have never seen the story of America told better," he told reporters.

Peter Ueberroth President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee introduced Romania's Montreal Olympic star, Nadia Comaneci, to Reagan in the official box.

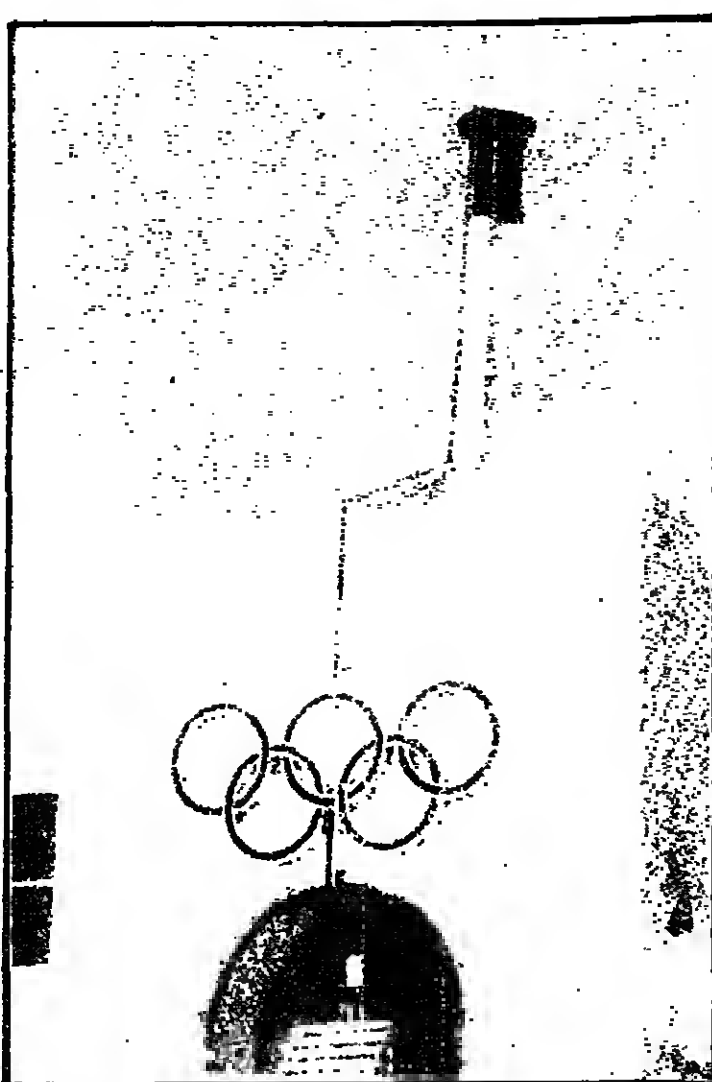
The crowd rose to its feet again with a roar to cheer the Romanian contingent when it marched into the arena. Romania, which refused to follow Moscow's line, is the only East European country to send a team to the games.

Libya's flag flew over the stadium with those of the competing nations even though its team had pulled out of the games.

Libya withdrew less than four hours before the opening ceremony because the United States refused to grant visas to three Libyans who wanted to attend the games as journalists.

The entry of the American team as the finale of the parade resembled a victory celebration in advance. The huge American contingent, in red, white and blue outfits, took up half of the athletic track as they marched round.

Hammer thrower Ed Burke demonstrated his prowess by wielding the stars and stripes flag with one arm.



The Olympic flame set alight signalling the start of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles (AP wirephoto)

One of the American athletes wore huge spectacles in the shape of the five ring Olympic symbol.

Chants of 'USA' almost drowned out the commentator's voice as the head of the Los Angeles Games Organising Committee, Peter Ueberroth, made a speech.

Ueberroth, from a podium on the trackside, said the athletes at the games "represent the best hope for the future of mankind."

He added: "Through sport we

can take an important step for world peace and understanding."

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, in his speech, said the athletes would participate "without any political influence."

Then in a clear reference to the Soviet Union and other countries boycotting the games, he added: "Nevertheless, our thoughts also go to those athletes who have been unable to join us."

He added: "Through sport we

Moscow blasts opening ceremony

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, which is leading a boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics, Sunday condemned the opening ceremony as a Hollywood-style propaganda show heralding an unrepresentative competition.

Soviet television and radio virtually ignored Saturday's opening ceremony but a report from Los Angeles by the official Soviet news agency TASS described it as "an obvious political spectacle."

"This show in the worst traditions of Hollywood had it all: Cowboys, wagons and bare-legged girls with many American flags but no place for the Olympic ideals of sport and international friendship," TASS said.

TASS said athletes from America's NATO allies were greeted by the crowd with a roar of welcome produced at the instigation of official cheerleaders while a grim silence met delegations from those countries hostile to U.S. policy.

The games are being used shamelessly by the American authorities as propaganda for their wicked anti-Soviet course and as an advertisement for the present incumbent of the white house," TASS said.

The Soviet agency mocked L.A. Olympic committee chairman Peter Ueberroth's address to the crowds.

"Before you are the best athletes in the world," he said, deliberately ignoring the fact that the leading sporting powers in the world were unable to take part because of the American authorities' gross violations of the

Olympic Charter," TASS said. Moscow radio's world service said more than half the outstanding performers at the World Championships in track and field events, boxing, gymnastics, wrestling, pentathlon and rowing were not attending the games.

In weightlifting, where one of the games' first gold medals will be awarded Sunday afternoon, Moscow radio said not one of the medal winners at the World Championships last year would be present.

TASS said the atmosphere of the games and the spite of crime which had preceded their opening demonstrated the extreme danger to athletes.

Concern for the safety of participants was the prime cause cited by Moscow for its withdrawal from the games, in which it was subsequently joined by most of its allies including East Germany, one of the top Olympic medal-winning countries.

The official East German news agency ADN reported the Olympic opening only briefly and press indications were that, as in Moscow, little coverage would be given there to the games.

Many Muscovites Sunday were unaware that the games had even started, though most sports fans knew and were equally aware that Romania and China were participating.

Some regretted the decision not to attend the games but few gave much credit to the official reason. "They didn't come to our games, why should we go to theirs?" said

one athletics fan.

Most Soviet sports lovers are waiting for next month's "Friendship 84" meet which will bring together athletes from most of the boycotting countries to compete in Moscow's Lenin Stadium, venue of the 1980 Olympics.

While television viewers throughout most of the world were bombarded with pictures of the flamboyant Olympic opening ceremony, Soviet television Sunday showed a normal Sunday programme of films and domestic soccer matches, plus speeches by admirals to mark national navy day.

In Czechoslovakia, state radio announced the opening of the games, with a brief comment on the commercial aspect of the event.

Western sources in Sofia and Budapest said they had so far heard no mention of the opening of the games on local Bulgarian or Hungarian official radio newscasts. One Western diplomat in

Budapest, however, said the main newscasts Sunday evening would probably mention the games briefly.

Czechoslovak television had no transmission of the Olympics on its schedule for the coming week, but people living near the Austrian and West German borders will be able to watch the games from Austrian and West German broadcasts.

Sources in Bucharest said Romania, the sole Warsaw Pact country to attend the games, planned to show some of the opening ceremony on television later Sunday.

Jesse Owens' granddaughter had games best kept secret

LOS ANGELES (R) — When Jesse Owens' granddaughter ran into the Los Angeles Coliseum Saturday carrying the Olympic flame, even her parents gasped in joyful surprise.

For Gina Hemphill's role, as torch-bearer was the best kept secret of the games. "My heart was going over and over and sideways. It was a wonderful feeling."

"I could see my parents look of astonishment when I ran in. I had been sworn to secrecy since Thursday when I was told," added the 23-year-old Hemphill.

Her grandfather, who died four years ago, won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and

Hemphill said: "I think this was a great, great tribute to him and it meant a lot for me to do it in his honour."

She handed the torch to Rafer Johnson, 49, decathlon gold medalist at the Rome Olympics in 1960, who then climbed the steep stairway to light the flame.

Johnson, relaxing in a caravan outside the stadium afterwards, was totally elated by the experience. "I was quite unbelievable. I was on a flat-top high. It was like I was on a mission with all 9,000 people out there supporting me."

"I wish I had every newspaper in the world tomorrow stacked up

so that I could read them for the next 50 years."

Johnson, who had done the run twice in rehearsals, said: "Once I got to the stairs, I knew it was okay. Everyone was yelling for me out there today."

Hemphill's handover to Johnson had an ironic twist to it.

When the torch started its journey from New York in May, it was Johnson who lit the flame which had been brought from Olympia in Greece.

He then handed over the torch to Bill Thorpe, grandson of dual 1912 gold-medallist Jim Thorpe, and Hemphill who together ran the first kilometre of the flame's odyssey across 33 states.

Gomez, Vilas, Tulasne, Krickstein advance in Washington tennis

WASHINGTON (R) — Andres Gomez, Guillermo Vilas, Thierry Tulasne and Aaron Krickstein gained places in the semi-finals of the \$200,000 Grand Prix tennis tournament here with quarter-final victories Saturday.

The second-seeded Gomez of Spain eliminated eighth-seeded American Mel Purcell 7-6, 6-4 and will face Vilas.

The fifth-seeded Vilas, of Argentina, beat 13th-seeded Pablo Arraya of Peru 6-1, 7-6.

The other semi-final will pit Krickstein, an American, against Tulasne, of France.

Tulasne ended the surprising success of a local favourite, unseeded Dan Goldie, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Krickstein, seeded seventh, defeated 11th-seeded Diego Perez of Uruguay 7-6, 6-1.

Purcell and Gomez both held serve in the first set, but Gomez won the tie-breaker handily. Gomez grew steadily more consistent and precise with his passing

shots in the second set and broke Purcell's serve twice to win the match.

Vilas coasted through his first set but then had to withstand Arraya's spirited comeback attempt in the second. Vilas said later he felt he had played "too safe" and let Arraya back into the match.

With Vilas leading 5-4 in the second, Arraya survived three match points and won the game to tie the set at 5-5. Vilas played strongly from the baseline to force and then win the tie-breaker for the match.

South Korea beats Tunisia in men's volleyball match

LONG BEACH, California (AP) — South Korea breezed to an easy victory over Tunisia Sunday as Olympic competition in men's volleyball got underway at the Long Beach arena.

Later Sunday, China was scheduled to face Japan and the United States was scheduled to meet Argentina, and Canada was scheduled to take on Italy in other openers in the men's tournament.

There are 10 teams taking part in the men's competition, which is divided into the pools. Canada and Brazil are idle until Tuesday.

Each team will play the other four teams in its pool, with the top two teams advancing to the medal round.

South Korea, considered a possible medal contender, easily disposed of Tunisia.

Korea led throughout the first game. Tunisia took a 3-0 lead in the second game and was trailing by just two points 3-6, before South Korea scored five straight points to take command.

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"Indian Film"

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

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U.S. economy moves into overdrive

WASHINGTON — Mr. Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, may well be right in the judgment of the U.S. economy which he offered to the party's recent convention in San Francisco. "We are living," he said, "on borrowed time."

But Mr. Mondale's hopes of convincing voters that President Reagan's economic policies are sowing disaster for the future do not look at all bright in the light of the current performance of the U.S. economy.

Unless something goes badly wrong in the next four months — and the chance of that happening gets thinner with every new economic statistic released — Mr. Reagan will have succeeded in managing the economic cycle to perfection, so far as its contribution to his re-election campaign is concerned.

For he is poised to claim credit for what Mr. Alan Sinai, chief economist at Shearson Lehman American Express, describes as some of the best statistics on U.S. economic performance in the last 20 years.

Real economic growth is continuing at a much more rapid pace than even the Reagan administration predicted.

The Commerce Department has revised its initial estimate of Gross National Product (GNP) in the second quarter from 5.7 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Economists such as Dr. Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers in New York are forecasting third and fourth-quarter real growth in the 4 to 5 per cent range.

According to blue chip economic indicators, the consensus forecast for the year has now risen

to 6.5 per cent — which would make 1984 the best year for real output since 1955.

Unemployment has been dropping like a stone since it peaked at 10.8 per cent in December 1982, and in June had fallen to 7 per cent.

Over this period over 5 million jobs have been created in the U.S. Inflation too has also defied the forecasters by not rising as much as many economists expected.

Indeed some economists are warning that falling prices — "deflation" — particularly in certain commodity markets should be a source of concern, not rejoicing and could signal a coming slump in the world economy.

They maintain that the Federal Reserve (Fed) should ease monetary policy, a call which must be music to the ears of Reagan administration campaign strategists who see this year's sharp rise in interest rates as the biggest blot on the administration's report card.

The impact of this year's rise in interest rates on U.S. farmers and home buyers. Third World debtors and on some European economies suggests that the Fed needs compelling reasons for tightening monetary policy further.

Significantly, what is normally the most compelling reason of all, the threat of inflation, is also not providing the central bank with the cast iron case it needs in today's political climate to support a tougher credit policy.

Of all the economic data, this year's inflation figures have perhaps been the most remarkable.

The last three months have been rising at an annual rate this year of around 4.3 per cent, little changed compared with the past

12 months.

Even more striking in recent months there have been sharp falls in commodity prices such as gold, copper, lumber, and grains.

Commodity indices have been dropping. The Economist magazine's index has fallen 11 per cent in the past six months.

Economists such as Mr. Alan Reynolds of the economics consulting firm Polyconomics say these declines in commodity and security prices may herald a new recession.

They warn that such price declines erode the value of stocks, weakening the collateral against which banks have lent.

Far from indicating that inflation is on the point of accelerating, it is argued that the price declines show that inflationary expectations are moderating and that, because of the rising real interest rates the risk of recession is increasing.

The contrary argument — and the one which has been governing the Fed's monetary policy — is that the cyclical upswing in the U.S. as it brings business closer to full capacity utilisation and the labour market to fuller employment, will lead to an acceleration in inflation as in the past.

Already some states are registering unemployment rates of under 5 per cent even though the national average is still 7 per cent. In these regions full employment and tight labour markets are already a reality.

The fact that inflation has not accelerated significantly yet, even though the economy has been growing very strongly, is attributed to a variety of special fac-

tors.

These include the depth of the last recession, the strength of the dollar which is helping to hold down domestic prices, the absence of any inflationary "shock" such as a jump in oil prices, the weakness of food and energy prices, deregulation and the moderate rate at which wages are rising.

In the first four months of this year, for example, average hourly earnings increased at an annual rate of only 3.4 per cent — less than the 3.9 per cent rise between the fourth quarter of 1982 and the fourth quarter of 1983.

Critics of the view that falling commodity prices are heralding a world wide recession, such as Mr. David Hale of Kemper Financial Services, point out that the strength of the economic upswing in the U.S. and recoveries in Japan and Europe point in the opposite direction.

The debate about the significance of the commodity price trends seems certain to be used by Republicans such as Congressman Jack Kemp to keep the pressure on the Fed not to push interest rates higher.

The Fed, however, shows no sign yet of being forced off its strategy of "passive tightening" of credit — that is of allowing market forces to push interest rates up.

It is this, coupled with the evidence of considerable momentum in the economy and continuing strong credit demand, which leads most economists to predict that further rises in U.S. interest rates lie ahead. But many suspect that the biggest increases will not come until after the November election. — Financial Times news features.

Rise in international bank lending chiefly finances richest countries

BASLE (R) — International bank lending grew in the first quarter of 1984, but the rise was chiefly confined to borrowers in major industrial nations, where the economic recovery has been strongest, a report published Monday said.

A Bank for International Settlements (BIS) quarterly report on international banking developments said lending to non-oil producing developing countries had fallen.

New credits to debt-ridden Latin America were all "voluntary" loans, agreed in restructuring accords.

In Eastern Europe, where borrowing had begun to pick up in the last quarter of 1983, new lending had again ground to a halt.

A fall in lending to OPEC members and smaller industrial countries was particularly pronounced but the BIS said this was due to seasonal factors and reduced borrowing needs rather than reluctance by banks to increase exposure to these areas.

Total lending abroad by banks in major non-communist nations was an estimated \$25 billion in the

first 1984 quarter. For seasonal reasons it was off the \$40 billion in the preceding quarter but well up on the \$10 billion of the same 1983 period.

The BIS, which provides banking services for central banks, said the \$25 billion growth in bank credit in the first quarter of this year exceeded the expansion in the first three months of 1982, before the international debt crisis emerged.

The report also focused on a turnaround in the finances of OPEC oil-producing nations. Before the world was hit by its latest economic recession, OPEC was a hefty supplier of funds to banks which re-deposited them abroad. But a fall in oil demand seriously affected OPEC balance of payments.

The BIS report said that in the nine months to mid-1983, OPEC

countries had drawn down bank deposits by over \$23 billion, but since then they had expanded by \$2.2 billion, growing by \$400 million in the first 1984 quarter.

The turnaround "suggests a pronounced improvement in OPEC countries' underlying balance-of-payments positions", the BIS said.

New lending to OPEC fell to \$500 million in the first quarter from \$7.1 billion in the previous three months.

Banking sources said banks were encouraged to lend more strongly to major industrialised countries by the economic upturn, which has been most pronounced in the U.S. but is also spreading elsewhere in the developed world.

New lending to this area accelerated to an estimated \$24 billion in the first quarter from \$21 billion in the previous period and to \$10.6 billion from \$2.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 1983. It was the largest quarterly figure since the BIS began records in 1963.

Lending by industrial countries' banks to the rest of the world slowed down sharply to \$2.5 billion

in the first quarter from \$17.6 billion in the preceding period, but the BIS said the development was largely seasonal. The latest level compared with \$1.5 billion in the first 1983 quarter.

The BIS said that in Latin America, only Brazil was a major borrower, taking \$2.4 billion, while Mexico slightly reduced its debts.

Credits to non-OPEC developing countries, which had picked up to \$4.1 billion in the last quarter of 1983, dropped off again to \$1.5 billion, the BIS said.

These nations lifted bank deposits by \$3.8 billion, little changed from the growth in the three earlier quarters. Some \$1.6 billion came from Latin America, with Mexico the largest source.

In the East Bloc, only the Soviet Union was a significant borrower, taking \$1.2 billion.

Poland and Hungary reduced their debt. The area lifted deposits by \$1.5 billion.

Lending to smaller industrial countries fell to \$500 million from \$5.3 billion in the period under review. This area increased deposits by \$700 million.

OPEC is under heavy pressure, analysts say

KUWAIT (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) faces increasing pressure to cut oil output quickly in order to ride out the world glut with its price and production accord intact, Gulf oil analysts said Sunday.

The analysts said they knew of no plans for any emergency meeting of OPEC ministers to review prices and output amid a continuing bulge in supplies and sharp falls in free market prices.

Speculation swept world financial markets late last week that such a meeting might be called. But Gulf analysts feel the odds are against this.

The weak market prompted the Soviet Union, a non-OPEC producer, to offer last Friday a temporary discount of \$1.50 a barrel on its Urals crude from Aug. 1. This brings the European price for its Suez blend market crude, which is similar to Urals, and 50 cents dearer after the Soviet cut.

Gulf analysts expect OPEC members to resist pressure to consider cuts in official prices while the British National Oil Co (BNOC) is able to hold its official prices for North Sea Crude, which have come under strong spot market pressure.

BNOC policy is critical to OPEC pricing because of its competitive impact on Nigeria, which produces similar quality crude. The West African producer is seen as OPEC's weakest link if Britain decides to trim prices.

"Meanwhile, OPEC must bite the bullet on output. A dramatic cut is needed, and quickly," one analyst said.

Saudi Arabia, in its role as swing-producer, may have to bear a lot of the required cut. But it is likely to insist that several other

OPEC members cut back quickly to quota levels which have been largely ignored in recent months.

At OPEC's bi-annual meeting in Vienna this month, ministers pinpointed the group's main priority as the need for members to stick to quotas. "But we certainly haven't seen any sign so far they are doing so," one analyst said.

Under the OPEC agreement, struck in March 1983, members set a benchmark price of \$29 a barrel for Saudi light crude and limited overall production to 17.5 million barrels a day (b/d) to support the price.

All members were allocated fixed output quotas, except Saudi Arabia, which agreed to a balancing role to meet demand for OPEC oil above the combined 12.5 million b/d share of other members.

Sources in the Egyptian Petroleum Corporation have said a decision on crude pricing for August, originally expected Sunday, was now unlikely until Monday.

Past experience suggests that the later a decision is taken in any month, the stronger the pressure for a price cut.

According to sources in Cairo however, a 50 cent drop in the price of Suez blend to match the new Urals charge might be more a symptom of market weakness than a step contributing to a global price war.

Western analysts, meanwhile, estimate OPEC's production at around 18 million to 18.5 million b/d, well above the group's ceiling at a time when demand for OPEC oil apparently falls short of the ceiling level.

The Saudis, who dropped output to below three million b/d at one stage last year to take up slack

in a soggy market, have given no sign of their immediate output intentions.

But analysts say the Saudis have already accepted a dent in their output by agreeing to allow Nigeria to produce an extra 100,000 b/d in August and 150,000 b/d in September at the kingdom's expense.

They said cuts in Saudi output are starting to hurt the country, which is running its second consecutive budget deficit.

Saudi reserves, according to best guesses among bankers and diplomats, may already be down near \$100 billion from closer to \$150 billion at the end of the oil boom.

Saudi Arabia accepted the swing role on condition other OPEC sellers did not discount to exceed mandated quotas.

It also made clear it expected non-OPEC members, such as Britain, Mexico and Norway, to show output restraint to prop up the market.

Analysts say it is probably more crucial to streamline output at present than to wring out informal price pacts aimed at undercutting official levels.

"We've seen a number of marketing ploys to undercut official prices, they've been used since the

(1983) agreement, and the market should wear them if OPEC can get its production right," one analyst said.

Some analysts expressed concern that Iran, for example, appeared to be boosting output to create a surge in exports at hefty price discounts.

As usual, Iran, at war with Iraq for 46 months, justifies these as war risk compensation.

"They (exports) may well fall back later and average out over the quarter at their quota level. But the timing now is delicate for this type of sales drive by OPEC members," an analyst said.

Analysts said OPEC's decision this month to establish a delegation to liaise with other major producers on ways to promote market stability now probably assumed added importance.

The group, to be led by Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, is expected to step efforts to persuade producers such as Britain and Norway to share the responsibility of reducing output and overcoming the risk of a price war.

The two European producers came in for harsh criticism at this month's OPEC meeting for boosting their output by about 13 per cent in the first five months of the year over the same 1983 period.

Kampuchea to revive economy with little help from capitalism

PHNOM PENH (R) — Communist Kampuchea is trying to put its battered economy back together again with a little help from capitalism.

The government has given its official seal of approval to a growing number of small privately-run businesses and in some cases has taken a more active role, joining in with entrepreneurs itself.

Foreign and local residents of Phnom Penh said there is continuing growth of small businesses in a city still recovering from the forced march back to the dark ages under the Khmer Rouge regime which held power during the late 1970s.

They said the government's tolerance of the private sector was an admission of severe economic problems in Kampuchea whose government manages to muddle

through only with considerable aid from Soviet Bloc countries.

But they added this was most likely only a temporary ideological shift until the country got back on its feet.

"With the economy in disarray, the government has no choice," one international aid worker said.

"It can't expect to have only state-run companies."

Mr. Chheng Sarim, 40, a Phnom Penh resident, is cashing in on the trend. He and a friend opened a restaurant here early this year and business is booming — at least by Kampuchean standards.

The restaurant, started with a handful of workers, has nearly 30 employees. It is in a state-owned building that was once vacant.

"The more we earn, the more we keep," he said.

Mr. Chheng Sarim said he signed an agreement with the gov-

ernment allowing private operation of the business with payment of only token taxes. But under the agreement, the state will take over the business after four years.

"In four years we should easily recover our (investment) money," he said.

Mr. Cha Kar, a 45-year-old government employee, is also hoping to try his hand at private enterprise.

He said he and his brother are saving up to buy a pedicab, another form of private business tolerated by the government.

A pedicab can be purchased for about 4,000 riel (\$80 at the black market exchange rate) but he said that could easily be earned within two to three months.

"It's a good way to make a living," he said.

Mr. Heng Sambot has been operating a small restaurant in Phnom Penh for nearly two years and he says the profits are enough to feed his family of 10.

He says the family, originally resident in the capital, was forced to work in the fields in Battambang province under former prime minister Pol Pot's reign of

terror between 1975 and 1979.

The family which lost some 20 of its members to starvation and overwork during the Khmer Rouge years returned to the capital after invading Vietnamese troops overthrew Pol Pot and installed the present Heng Samrin government.

At first they traded goods such as firewood and anything else available on street corners. After scrimping and saving for about three years, they had enough to open a small restaurant.

But Mr. Heng Sambot said that the businessman in Kampuchea still must tread carefully. His livelihood, though tolerated by the state, can easily be taken away.

As he slipped a cup of coffee at his restaurant, a man described as a mid-ranking government official got up abruptly from a nearby table and walked out leaving an unpaid dinner bill of 600 riel — about two month's wages for the average Kampuchean.

Less than half an hour later, a uniformed soldier left another table and swaggered toward the door, thanking the owner for a reluctantly-donated free meal.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

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"My electric toothbrush broke and I can't remember how to use the old one!"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

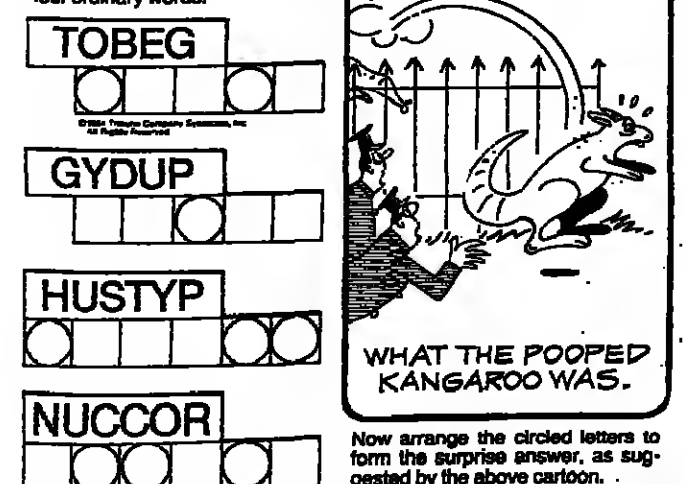


Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "TOBEG OF GYDUP HUSTYP NUCCOR" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BIPED STEED INVOKE PLAQUE Answer: What it was when the prisoner escaped — A SLIP OF THE "PEN"

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 30, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning finds clear and lucid ideas for the best manner in which to put in to execution the various decisions that you made this past weekend.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Begin the week wisely by getting a good deal accomplished, but don't leave your work for pleasure after lunch.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make yourself look more charming by taking right health treatments, and then plan some entertainment.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get conditions improved at home in the morning and handle all work very well. Make those telephone calls to others who can help you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are able to communicate well with partners in the morning, but take care later you do not jeopardize goodwill.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get monetary affairs handled early and later listen to suggestions of a family tie since these can be helpful to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You arise with clever ideas on your mind and it would be wise to put them quickly in motion, and then you can have a good time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You get advice from a partner early in the day that can bring about greater success, so follow it. Make your relationship meaningful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) See what is best to do early for a good friend and then clear up a puzzling situation. Handle practical affairs during the daytime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Settle that vocational matter early since later there may be some tense problems that may come up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make sure you study a new enterprise from every angle, both good and bad and know what you are getting into.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Begin the new week wisely by keeping every business promise you have made. Some complaint from you mate should be heard.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Converse with an associate regarding some joint enterprise and let conditions come into the open and come to a fine settlement.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very capable at handling whatever profession he or she eventually chooses and would be interested in modern ones where the use of computers and blueprints are necessary. Send to the right schools for such knowledge to develop the penchant for precision.

crosswords not received

400 protestors arrested in Punjab

Four stabbed to death in south Indian state

NEW DELHI (R) — Four people were stabbed to death Sunday in the south Indian city of Hyderabad while police in Punjab arrested more than 400 protestors led by a former parliamentarian, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

PTI said five people were also injured in the clashes during a two-hour break in a curfew in Hyderabad. There were group clashes, it said without naming the groups.

A curfew was clamped on the city, capital of south Andhra Pradesh state, when two people were killed and at least 72 injured on Friday in group clashes and when police opened fire to curb disturbances. The city has almost equal numbers of Hindus and Muslims.

In the Punjab town of Patiala, police arrested more than 400 people as Amrinder Singh, a former member of parliament for the ruling Congress (I) Party, led them out of a Sikh shrine in defiance of a ban on large gatherings, PTI said.

Mr. Singh, once a close associate of Indian Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi's son Rajiv, quit the parliament and the party in June in protest at the army's storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar last month to root out Sikh extremists.

PTI quoted Mr. Singh as saying earlier in a speech at the shrine that supplies of foodgrain from Punjab to the rest of India would be stopped unless the government met the demands of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal. Punjab is India's main producer of wheat and rice.

The party had threatened to block off food supplies from Punjab as part of its campaign for religious and political concessions when the army entered the state last month.

PTI said 8,000 devotees entered the Golden Temple for prayers Sunday. Repair work there con-

tinued for the 13th day, led by Santa Singh, who heads a Sikh sect known as Nihangs, it added.

Sikh leaders, including the sect's five high priests, chose a respected religious holy man, Baba Kharak Singh, Saturday to lead the repair work.

The high priests have excommunicated Santa Singh for disobeying their order not to start repair work until security forces are withdrawn from the temple precincts.

State-owned All India Radio quoted Santa Singh as saying he had earlier offered to co-operate with Kharak Singh, but had received no response.

Meanwhile, the government of the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir has accused the state's former Chief Minister, Farouq Abdullah, of condoning Sikh and pro-Pakistan extremism, PTI said Sunday.

The new government, headed by his brother-in-law G.M. Shah, released a 22-page document which said Mr. Abdullah had at least one meeting with militant Sikh preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.



President Ronald Reagan reaches from the stage to shake hands with supporters at a rally in Elizabeth, New Jersey Thursday (AP wirephoto).

Dominican envoy denies part in drug trafficking

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The Dominican Republic's ambassador to Taiwan denied Sunday reports in the Japanese press that he helped drug traffickers smuggle stimulant drugs worth roughly \$110 million into Japan.

"It is a lie," Mr. Tancredi Duluc, 58, told the Associated Press (AP) in a brief telephone interview. "I would never, never do this, I suppose the Japanese are wrong about my name."

The Japanese press, in reports Saturday, quoted officials of the Metropolitan Police Department as saying Mr. Duluc brought 140 kilograms of drugs into Japan through Tokyo's Haneda Airport on two occasions between March and April.

He claimed diplomatic immunity to avoid having his baggage searched, the reports quoted police as saying.

In his interview with the AP, Mr. Duluc said he did not visit Japan this year but was there twice last year. He said he and his family spent three days there on vacation last November and he was in Japan again on Dec. 26 when he made a two-hour transit stop at the airport en route back to the Dominican Republic.

In Tokyo, spokesmen for the Metropolitan Police Department and the national police agency refused to comment on the case, saying only that their offices have released no information on the case.

Interpol officials in Taipei said Saturday they had investigated the reports but found no evidence linking the diplomat to the drug smuggling reports.

Since May, Japanese police have confiscated 62 kilograms of drugs in Tokyo. The Japanese press reports said police learned of the diplomat's involvement from 12 Japanese, South Koreans and Taiwanese who had been arrested in these cases.

Court officials said, meanwhile, one of the four Taiwanese arrested here, Niu Chih-Kuo, told them he did not know Mr. Duluc.

Last month, Taiwan police arrested four Taiwanese in what officials described as the largest local ring manufacturing stimulant drugs for smuggling into Japan. They also seized 70 kilograms of amphetamines and other stimulants, which they estimated had a market value in Japan of 2.3 billion Taiwan dollars, or roughly (\$57.5 million).

Reagan must woo Catholics, women

By Maureen Santini
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While President Ronald Reagan was denouncing Democrats at a campaign rally in Atlanta, Georgia last week, an Italian-American voter who braved the sweltering heat to see the president voiced his personal dilemma.

"I wish I could vote for him and Ms. Ferraro," Bill Brunetti of Cobb county told a reporter, referring to opposition Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

Mr. Brunetti's statement sums up one of the problems Mr. Reagan faces as he campaigns for reelection on the Republican ticket. The president must convince ethnic Catholics and 50 per cent of the nation's women, that he deserves their votes for the November general elections.

The president may win at the notion that he must appeal to the same constituency as Representative Ferraro, whom Republican strategists label among the most liberal members of Congress.

But it was obvious from the way he made his campaign pitch last week that Mr. Reagan knew that he and Ms. Ferraro will often be competing for the same audiences.

An Italian-American barber in Maryland, a long-time Reagan supporter, told a reporter recently that Democratic challenger Walter Mondale "will get the votes of 29 million Italian Americans" because he gave Ms. Ferraro a chance to become the first American of Italian ancestry in the White House.

The barber was exaggerating slightly, since there are about 12 million Italian Americans.

As the president launched a political counteroffensive last week to regain the spotlight the Democrats enjoyed during their nom-

inating convention, the Reagan camp appeared nervous, at least temporarily.

There was reason to be. Two recent polls show the large advantage Mr. Reagan enjoyed over Mr. Mondale two brief weeks ago has evaporated, and it is becoming all too apparent that Ms. Ferraro is partly responsible.

A recent Louis Harris poll, for example, shows Mr. Reagan beating Mr. Mondale, 51 percent to 46 per cent if the election were held today. But when the ticket of Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush was pitted against the Mondale-Ferraro slate, the president held a statistically insignificant two-point lead, 50 per cent to 48 per cent.

NEWS ANALYSIS

John Buckley, a campaign spokesman, said the polls were not alarming. The upcoming Republican convention, he noted, should give the party a boost in the polls.

On the day of the Iowa presidential primary election last Feb. 20, Mr. Reagan told reporters "I am not scared." During his travels last week to Texas, Georgia and New Jersey, the president delivered his partisan attacks so vigorously that some people wondered what had become of his pledge to take the political high.

In the same week that Mr. Reagan's Campaign Director, Edward Rollins, predicted Mr. Mondale would conduct a "very slashing" campaign, the president derided the Democratic ticket for "going so far left, they've left America." He never mentioned his opponents by name.

James Lake, the press secretary for the Re-election Committee, said it was simply the presidential manner. "He's an aggressive campaigner," said Mr. Lake.

Doe to run in elections

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Head of state Samuel K. Doe, who led a 1980 military coup, announced Saturday he will run for president of the new civilian government due to be installed in 1986.

Doe, 54, a one-time army major sergeant, made the widely expected announcement after a meeting with serving and retired senior army officers.

An official announcement af-

terward quoted Sarg. Doe as telling the officers he would run because that was "in keeping with your wishes and those of the Liberian people."

Retired Brig.-Gen. Mansfield Yacy, a former army assistant chief of staff, who replied on behalf of the gathering, said he told Sarg. Doe, "If the Liberian people want you, the army also wants you."

China willing to take part in nuclear arms talks

PEKING (AP) — China said Sunday that it keeps nuclear weapons to resist "blackmail and intimidation" by the superpowers but expressed willingness to participate in disarmament talks.

The government also asserted that "the greatest threat to world peace in our time originates from the rivalry of the two superpowers for world hegemony."

The assertions came in a speech by Li Yimang, president of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, at a state-run conference Saturday on "the defence of world peace."

The text of the speech was published Sunday by the Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily (Renmin Ribao), giving it the stamp of official government policy.

The newspaper said 200 Chinese figures attended the Peking conference, described as a forum to explain China's "peaceful and independent" foreign policy and criticize the United States and Soviet Union for intensifying the arms race.

China exploded its first atomic bomb in 1964. The Chinese have never disclosed the number of nuclear weapons built since then, but their arsenal is believed to be insignificant compared to the awesome destructive power of U.S. and Soviet stockpiles.

"The small limited number of nuclear weapons China has to keep at present is solely aimed at resisting the nuclear blackmail and intimidation by the superpowers, and at helping the struggle for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons," Li said.

"Our country has long ago undertaken the unilateral commitment never to be the first to use nuclear weapons or to use them against non-nuclear states or nuclear-free zones," Mr. Li said.

"If the other nuclear states are ready to discuss the reduction of nuclear weapons, China will participate."

luding body heat at great distances, he said.

Unlike other weapons, many electronic warfare systems could be used in peacetime as well as wartime, Gen. Romano said.

In wartime, they could enable a defender to gain a decisive advantage in the first hours of a conflict by disrupting, deceiving or bewildering attacking forces.

Technologies now available included massive electronic jamming, decoying and the capacity to communicate in radio silence.

Gen. Romano said technical advances could also enable Western forces to recognize the electronic "signature" of enemy aircraft or ground units at great distances.

"It's like recognising a fingerprint or the familiar sound of your car engine," he said.

Gen. Romano said NATO countries had increased their spending on electronic warfare by 235 per cent in the last two years, but from a very low level, and much more was needed.

COLUMN

Pickpockets arrested at Olympics opening

LOS ANGELES (R) — Thirty-three pickpockets and a private pilot who tried to steal a closer look were the only arrests reported by police after the sold-out opening ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympics. The pilot was charged with reckless flying Saturday after he flew his small plane too low over the Los Angeles Coliseum where the ceremonies took place before a crowd of 93,000, including President Reagan and many foreign dignitaries. The pickpockets, ranging in age from 22 to 70, were arrested in or near the coliseum by undercover police officers specially trained to apprehend such suspects. Police officials, who have mounted an enormous security operation for these games, said they were very pleased with how smooth the opening went. "We planned for this thing for a year and a half and our plan seems to be working," Police Lieutenant Dan Cooke said.

Surgeons work in fields while patients wait

MOSCOW (R) — Hospital patients in a Russian village had to wait up to nine hours for medical help because doctors, nurses and even surgeons had been drafted into the fields to help pick sugar beet, a Soviet newspaper said Sunday. Over 40 people were sitting in a clinic waiting room, while in the hospital ward one nurse had to cope with 65 patients, according to a letter in the newspaper Soviet Russia. Local officials contacted by telephone denied that doctors had been sent out to the harvest, but when a reporter from the newspaper visited the hospital he was told that the senior doctor was bringing in hay and surgeons, nurses and anesthetists were also out working in the fields.

Surgeons work in fields while patients wait

MASON'S FUNERAL TO BE HELD IN VEVEY

VEVEY, Switzerland (AP) — The funeral of James Mason, the British-born film and stage actor and three-time academy award nominee, will be held Tuesday at the All Saints English Church in Vevey, the church pastor said Saturday. The Rev. Alex Ross said by telephone that the funeral would begin at 11 A.M. (0900 GMT), but that he had no further information as to burial plans by the Mason family. Rev. Ross said he believed the service would be open to the public in the small church, which is a few minutes walk from Lake Geneva and holds 250 people. Mason, whose career spanned some 50 years and 106 films, died Friday of a heart attack suffered at his home in Corsaux, near Vevey. He was 75.

Gunman's widow to donate money

SAN YSIDRO, California (AP) — The widow of mass killer James Oliver Huberty plans to use part of any money she receives from her story to establish an education fund for survivors of Huberty's rage, a friend of the family said. Ann Ruiz said the education fund was one of several gestures of sympathy made by Etna Huberty in the days following her husband's brutal assault at a fast-food restaurant here. Huberty, 41, an unemployed security guard, opened fire with three guns on employees and patrons July 18, killing 21 and wounding 19 before he was shot to death by a police marksman. Mrs. Huberty had drawn the ire of some residents in this border community by announcing she would sell book and movie rights to her story, and after it was learned she had received the first payout from a survivor's fund. A \$1,000 contribution to her was the subject of a planned protest Friday, but the demonstration was abandoned after residents were told Mrs. Huberty and her two daughters had left California and were en route to the north eastern state of Ohio.

Reagan assailant seeks release

WASHINGTON (R) — John Hinckley, who was found innocent by reason of insanity of trying to kill President Reagan in 1981. Saturday notified a federal judge he would seek his release from a mental hospital. Under federal law, a person found innocent of a crime in Washington because of insanity can be released at any time after doctors find that he is no longer a threat to himself or others.

U.K. Liberals propose self-rule for Falklands

LONDON (R) — The 1,800 inhabitants of the disputed Falkland Islands should be granted internal self-government under the Argentine flag, a committee of Britain's opposition Liberal Party urged Sunday.

The party's Latin American Affairs Committee said the islands had been effectively under British military occupation since the 1982 Falklands war. There was an urgent need to change Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's "fortress Falklands" policy.

A 26-page report published by the committee Sunday does not represent Liberal Party policy. But party sources said it could be adopted into the party's manifesto later this year.

The committee blamed the breakdown of this month's Anglo-Argentine talks in Bern, Switzerland, on Britain's refusal to discuss sovereignty of the South Atlantic islands.

The committee envisaged a five to 10-year transition period for the handover of sovereignty and this would depend on the preservation of constitutional democracy in Argentina.

The committee said it favoured a status for the Falklands similar to that enjoyed by Finland's Aland Islands since 1920. The Swedish-speaking Aland Islanders have self-government under an elected legislature supervised by a Finnish governor.

It proposed that, under an internationally supervised settlement, the Falklanders should have the right to elect members to the Argentine congress. A Falklands flag would fly alongside the Argentine flag on the islands.

Islanders would be able to retain their British nationality at the time of the sovereignty handover and would be exempt from service in the Argentine Armed Forces. The eight-member committee hopes to gain wide support for its recommendations but members acknowledged the "Aland option" might prove too radical for the Liberal Party as a whole.

The minority Liberal Party has only 17 seats in the 650-member House of Commons but parliamentarians from other parties, including the ruling Conservatives, have recently been exploring ideas for a Falklands settlement.

Soviet Navy ready to deal counterblows

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet admirals marked National Navy Day Sunday with warnings to the United States that their fleet was capable of dealing a devastating nuclear counterblow in the event of war.

Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, naval commander-in-chief, in an interview with the official daily Pravda, said the oceans were no longer a barrier protecting the United States.

"In the event of war launched against us by the American imperialists, the USA itself inevitably risks devastating strikes in response to aggression, coming also from the ocean reaches," he said.

Deputy Naval Commander Admiral Vasily Novikov, writing in the daily Socialist Industry, said Soviet nuclear submarines armed with ballistic missiles were an important element in national defence.

Solidarity underground leader freed

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity underground activist Wladyslaw Frasyniuk has been released from prison under a Polish government amnesty for political prisoners, opposition sources said Saturday.

Mr. Frasyniuk, 30, who went into hiding after martial law was declared in 1981, had been the banned trade union's underground structure in the south western industrial city of Wroclaw until he was captured in 1982 and jailed for three years.

He was released from Leczyca Prison near the Baltic Port of Szczecin, the sources said.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said 309 of the 652 political prisoners due to be freed under the amnesty had left jail.

The amnesty, proclaimed a week ago, also extended to 35,000 of Poland's non-political prisoners. The official PAP News Agency reported that the total number of people freed by Friday night was 10,546.

Family sources said four members of the KOR dissident group, including Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, and five former senior officials of Solidarity were not expected to be released from Rakowicka Prison in Warsaw until early next week.

Andrzej Gwiazda, who was Solidarity deputy chairman, and Grzegorz Palke, who was a provincial leader of the union, are the only members of the Rakowicka group, all accused of conspiring to overthrow Communism, to have been freed so far.

Family sources reported how-ever that conditions in the prison had been relaxed since the amnesty.

Mr. Kuron had been allowed to share a cell with Solidarity man Karol Modzelewski and KOR defendants Henryk Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszewski had also been put together, they said. The prisoners were previously kept apart.

Mr. Frasyniuk took part in hunger strikes in support of political prisoner status for Solidarity detainees and was given an extra 10 months in May insulting the governor of his prison.

Ershad rules out fears of army coup

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has said that allowing the military a political role had removed any fears of coups or a civil war.

"You cannot keep the army away from politics. They fought for independence of the country which itself is a political objective," Gen. Ershad said in an interview published Saturday in the weekly Dhaka Courier.

"We are sometimes threatened by the politicians," Gen. Ershad was quoted as saying. "But let me tell you that no one can make a division in the army and therefore a civil war will not take place."

Opposition parties have criticised the military ruler, saying he has propelled the country into a political and economic crisis that might lead to civil war.

In the interview, Gen. Ershad recalled that during the six-year rule of former President Ziaur Rahman there had been 18 mutinies in the armed forces, with the president himself killed in one of them on May 30, 1981.

Gen. Ershad said the army had been frustrated in the past by lack of knowledge about what was going on in the country.

"Now I meet my generals once in a month and tell them what I am doing or planning to do," he said.

He told the newspaper: "I have set the date for parliamentary elections (Dec. 8) and taken other measures for a peaceful transition of power to civilian representatives."

But he emphasised a political role for the armed forces because "they are part and parcel of a whole process."

China, U.K. optimistic over Hong Kong talks

PEKING (R) — China and Britain held more ministerial talks Sunday on the handover of Hong Kong to Peking in 1997, keeping details secret but indicating optimism about the outcome.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and China's Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian, had a third round of talks as Sir Geoffrey continued a four-day visit here.

The two-hour session was friendly and productive, British sources said.

The two countries are trying to agree in principle by the end of September on the transfer of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, when Britain's lease on most of the territory expires, and how China will govern it

after that.

China's Former Foreign Minister, Ji Pengfei, whose present job is to oversee the handover, was quoted by the New China News Agency as saying that Sino-British negotiations on the issue were progressing smoothly.

Mr. Ji said problems might arise but he was confident solutions would be found, the agency reported.

He was speaking to a delegation of Hong Kong civil servants, who came here to discuss their future when the capitalist territory reverts to Chinese rule.

The agency said Mr. Ji repeated Peking's pledge that Hong Kong would retain its present system.

"This is a long-term policy rather than a measure of expediency," he added. "We place our trust in Hong Kong patriots to administer the area well."

Sir Geoffrey was believed to be holding more talks with Chinese ministers or officials Sunday, but no details were known.

Foreign Minister Wu told him at a dinner Saturday night he was confident an early accord on Hong Kong could be reached "provided we take a broader view in our approach to problems and work together in sincere co-operation."

British sources said they saw this remark as meaning only that the Hong Kong issue should be viewed against the whole range of Sino-British relations, rather than as referring specifically to Britain's negotiating stance.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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SECOND HAND HIGH!

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ AQ54
♥ 82
♦ 102
♣ AJ9E7

WEST EAST
♠ J109873 ♡ 2
♥ Q4 ♣ KJ10973
♦ J98 ♣ Q53
♠ 54 ♣ KQ3

SOUTH
♠ K6
♥ A65
♦ AK764
♣ 1062

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♥
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♥.

By and large, composers of chess and bridge problems are not among the world's greatest players. Perhaps the reason is that they are always looking for problem positions, rather than practical solutions. One notable exception to this rule, however, was the late Paul Lukacs. Not only was he a composer of many of the world's best single dummy problems, he also represented Israel in international competition.

This hand cropped up in the Trials to select Israel's team for the 1985 European Championships. There was nothing unusual about the final contract, and it was reached at most tables in the event on an auction such as the one shown above.

West led the queen of hearts, and declarer was faced with entry problems. He had to set up his diamond suit, while keeping East off lead in the process. In addition, he could not afford to cross to the table with a spade to lead a diamond from the board, because the defenders could win and knock out the ace of clubs, which would remove the entry to dummy's third spade.

So declarer ducked the opening lead and won the heart continuation. He cashed the king of spades and entered dummy with a spade to the queen. Now he led a low diamond from the table. Lukacs unhesitatingly jumped in with the queen!

Had East played low, declarer would have been able to pass the diamond to West. No return from West would have harmed him and, with diamonds breaking favorably, the contract would have sailed home. As it was, declarer had to capture the queen with the king, and now he had no entry back to his hand to make his long diamonds.

We have seen this type of play before, but invariably when the long suit has been on the board. Not many players would make it in this position, with the long suit concealed in declarer's hand.